

# The Boer War

Australians and the war  
in South Africa, 1899–1902



This guide is number 9 in the series of Research Guides published by the National Archives of Australia.

Between 1899 and 1902 more than 10,000 Australian soldiers sailed for South Africa to support British troops engaged in the war against the Boer settlers. The first contingents were raised by the colonial governments and it was not until 1902 that the newly-formed Commonwealth raised the eight battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse. This guide to the official government records of Australia's involvement in the Boer War includes both colonial and Commonwealth records held by the National Archives of Australia and the Australian War Memorial. These records document the process of recruiting, training and shipping contingents through nominal rolls, pay sheets, reports and thousands of red-tape files.

Guides include the material known to be relevant to their subject area but they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material in the collection.

The National Archives reviews its collection to confirm the value of records for research, evidential and other purposes or to identify, in consultation with agencies, records for destruction. At the time of publication all the records described in this guide were present in the Archives collection. However, it is possible that some of the records may be destroyed if they are reviewed and considered not to be of enduring value. If this occurs the guide will be revised accordingly.

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# Introduction

## The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth Government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information, the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth Government – a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. The main focus of the collection is material which documents Federal Government activities since Federation in 1901. There are also significant holdings of nineteenth-century records which relate to functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth Government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the National Archives collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and are provided with reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and help by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch provide information about agencies, persons and series as well as descriptions of over two million individual records. They are available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the National Archives website.

The National Archives website provides more information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to your research. Fact sheets on various topics are also available on the Archives website.

## The Boer War

The question of who would dominate South Africa was disputed throughout the nineteenth century. Black Africans were pushed aside by white Europeans, who fought among themselves for the subcontinent. Dominance seemed to pass to the British Empire when it ousted the Dutch by 1806 and gradually built up two settler colonies, Cape Colony in the south and Natal in the south-east. But the Boers, as the mostly rural descendants of Dutch and other early European colonists were called, 'trekked' inland, established two republics called the Transvaal and Orange Free State, and defied further British encroachment in a short war fought in 1881. Encroachment of a different sort soon followed. Cecil Rhodes, a diamond millionaire and fervent imperialist, seized the land north of the Transvaal, soon

known as Rhodesia. The Boers could no longer trek northward to escape British influence. The discovery of gold in the Transvaal's Witwatersrand district brought a rush of immigrants from around the world, and especially from English-speaking societies, to exploit the new riches. The Transvaal Government welcomed the 'Uitlanders' (foreigners) but would not grant them the vote for some years, lest they chose British over Boer rule.

Most white citizens of the British Empire were unmoved by Rhodes' escapades and by the Uitlanders' lack of voting rights. But an influential minority thought differently. Some saw the Uitlanders as ordinary workers and Britons who had been unjustly denied political rights. The imperial government in London and other powerful supporters and shapers of the empire wanted to reverse the humiliation of 1881, win control of the gold mines, and strengthen the empire by transforming those of its white men who currently trained part-time as citizen soldiers into the British army's reserve. War in South Africa might achieve all these aims provided the Boers could be manoeuvred into the role of aggressors. Alfred Milner, Governor of Cape Colony, goaded the Boers into attack. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Colonies in the imperial government, asked the governments of the settler colonies, including the six colonies in Australia, to raise small contingents from their citizen soldiers to fight beside the British army. The colonial governments agreed, not always enthusiastically. In October 1899 the Boers invaded Natal and Cape Colony. The Boer War had begun.

The war is conventionally divided into three phases. During the first, which lasted until early 1900, the invading Boers, mostly farmers armed with rifles who rode small horses for mobility, routed the British army and the first of its citizen soldier auxiliaries, most of whom were recruited in South Africa among the Uitlanders. In the second phase, which lasted for most of 1900, the British army was heavily reinforced by contingents of mounted soldiers from Britain and the settler colonies, many of whom had had no previous military experience but, being mostly rural men, were thought able to fight the Boers on equal terms. This vast khaki force rolled back the Boers from British territory, invaded their republics, and captured their gold mines and capital cities. The war seemed over. Lord Roberts, the British commander, handed over what now seemed a police action to his chief of staff, Lord Kitchener, and returned to England a hero. Many of the contingents returned home in triumph.

But the Boers fought on, dispersing into small, highly mobile parties or 'commandos' which ambushed their enemies. Kitchener called for reinforcements from Britain and the colonies and organised powerful mounted columns which swept the countryside, seizing supplies, burning farms, and imprisoning women and children. His methods disillusioned some of his soldiers and provoked protest back home, but they wore down Boer resistance. Peace was declared in May 1902. The Transvaal and Orange Free State became part of a united British South Africa. The gold mines returned their rich yield to British investors. Plans were drafted to form a reserve for the British army from white men around the empire, though nothing came of these plans. The Boers were offered partnership in ruling the new dominion, and were assured that the imperial government would never push through the policy they most detested – granting legal equality and the vote to black and 'coloured' (mixed-race) Africans.

## The Australian involvement in the war

Thousands of men who had lived in Australia at least part of their lives, many of whom were Uitlanders, fought in the war in irregular units raised in South Africa. Their actions were not part of the official Australian war effort, which ultimately saw six waves of small contingents despatched from Australia to fight.

The British army treated these contingents as it treated all units of specially-raised troops which arrived in South Africa, whether from the settler colonies or from Britain: as irregular troops, to be kept in small formations and placed under experienced generals. Australian governments had no control over their contingents once they sailed for South Africa. They did not want it, if only because it would make them partly responsible for the war's conduct and so liable to any domestic criticism of the war, while it would also upset the careful cost-sharing arrangements which saw the imperial government, and so the British taxpayer, meet almost all costs of keeping the Australian soldiers fed, clothed, equipped and paid.



Patriotic fervour on display as a departing contingent marches through the streets of Melbourne.  
NAA: B580, AUST TROOPS EN ROUTE FOR SA WAR 1899-1902

By the close of 1899 the first wave of Australian contingents were being employed in South Africa guarding lines of communication. Some were briefly formed into an Australian regiment, an unpopular move because a large unit of irregulars was thought unlikely to be allowed to see much fighting. This and other preconceptions changed in December 1899 when the Boers inflicted three defeats on the British army during what was dubbed 'Black Week'. Fearing that this blow to British prestige would spark a general war between the great powers, the imperial government and leading citizens around the empire called for more contingents of citizen soldiers, ones that could ride and shoot as expertly as the Boer farmers. Most Australian colonial governments raised a second wave of contingents, now entirely composed of mounted riflemen who, like the Boers, rode horses for mobility but dismounted to fight.

Ordinary Australians, supervised by their governments, raised further contingents whose members had little experience as part-time citizen soldiers but were supposed to possess rough martial virtues inculcated by years of frontier life. The third wave, called 'citizen's bushmen', was raised, equipped and trained partly at public expense. The fourth wave, called 'imperial bushmen', relied almost entirely on the British taxpayer. The second, third and fourth waves of contingents, accompanied by 40 nurses, sailed away to thunderous applause from massed crowds. The war was now popular in Australia, especially given fears that continued defeat in South Africa might prompt Russia, France or Germany to attack the British Empire and pick off its isolated colonies.

The second wave of Australian contingents joined in Roberts' advance against the Boer capital cities. Some were in General John French's punishing cavalry ride that relieved Kimberley and its diamond mines from a Boer siege in February 1900. Some fought in the last real battle of the war a few days later at Paardeberg. Most rode in the mounted brigade led by Edward Hutton, who dreamed of forming an empire-wide citizen army after the war using Australians as its cavalry. The bushmen contingents assembled in Rhodesia as part of a Rhodesian Field Force formed to help prevent a Boer invasion. When the invasion failed to arrive, the bushmen rode south to relieve besieged Mafeking. They missed the chance to participate in a victory which led to wild rejoicing across the empire, but some won brief fame when they resisted a Boer siege at Elands River during thirteen days in July–August 1900. Wherever they fought, these contingents were deployed in much the same way: as squadron-sized units of horsemen which swept the countryside, searching for an elusive enemy and seeking to deny him provisions and support by looting and burning his farms.

Contingent members signed up to serve for a year, and from October 1900 most began to return to Australia. Kitchener's call for more troops resulted in a fifth wave of contingents (known as 'draft' contingents) being raised early in 1901. In theory the Australian colonies had passed their defence powers immediately to the new Commonwealth Government on 1 January, but a Commonwealth defence department was not formed until March, a General Officer Commanding not appointed until late in the year (it was to be Hutton), and Commonwealth Military Forces were not formed from the six colonies' military forces before mid-1903. So the draft contingents were raised by the colonial, now retitled State, governments, and given state identities – though there was some confusion over whether to



describe them as bushmen and whether to count them as fifth or as fifth and sixth contingents. Most fought as regiment-sized formations led by their own officers. They conducted an even dirtier war than their predecessors, unbroken by clear victories and besmirched by the humiliating defeats of Wilmansrust and Onverwacht.

In contrast to the first wave of contingents the drafts were easily recruited, partly from veterans, mostly from young single urban men. Was military service proving a useful employer during mediocre economic times? Were some Australians developing a taste for war? Other Australians were hardening their attitude against it. The judicious support for the war during October 1899 and the war fever of December 1899–January 1900 had given way after Mafeking Day in May that year to a prevailing indifference and increasing distaste. Opposition to the barbarities of guerrilla fighting blended with doubts about the justice of the war to produce a small but vocal anti-war movement among the liberal middle class and some trade unions. But when Kitchener again called for troops early in 1902 the Commonwealth Government obliged. Hutton organised eight battalions of what after some indecision were called the Australian Commonwealth Horse, and despatched them to the front. As with the draft contingents there was an oversupply of recruits, but few saw any fighting and half had not even arrived in South Africa by the signing of the peace in May. It was a quiet end to a war in which a total of 10 000 soldiers or more had served in Australian contingents (the conventional figure of 16 500 double-counts the thousands who enlisted twice). Five hundred had died, half from disease.

## Records of the involvement

Many Australian soldiers and nurses wrote letters and diaries and took photographs of what they saw at the front. Australian newspapers reported the course of the war and the doings of Australians in action. Australian journalists wrote books about the war and what it meant for Australia. Such records are plentiful and rich in reflection on the justice and wisdom of the war as well as on its conduct. In contrast, official records in Australia seem sparse, mundane and tight-lipped – testimony to the state's small jurisdiction a century ago, to the absence of any compelling need to mobilise civilians or even persuade them to support the war, to the primacy of the imperial government in making policy decisions about the war, and to the role of the British army in deploying and disciplining the Australian contingents.

The most common records relating to the war created by Australian governments documented the routine administration of their contingents. Recruiting, training and shipping contingents generated nominal rolls, pay sheets and thousands of red-taped files on small procedural matters. The return of the contingents to Australia and the distribution of pensions and medals generated more such records. There were some documents from the front. Regular reports (the ancestors of the 'war diaries' of the two world wars) were sent back to Australia by at least some officers commanding contingents, while matters of controversy on or near the battlefield provoked inquiries, protests and official decisions which in turn produced records, some of which were sent to Australia.

Such records were scattered across the continent and divided among a variety of Government agencies. Records on the first five waves of contingents were generated and kept by colonial governments, of which only Victoria maintained a defence department; by colonial military headquarters, each headed by a commandant and staffed by a dozen or so clerks and senior officers; and by the contingents themselves. Only when the Commonwealth Government's defence department took control of military matters from the colonies did that department begin to create a large amount of its own records on the war. Only in 1902, when the war was almost over, did it become responsible for raising any contingents.

The relative paucity and diffusion of official Australian records of the war was made worse when many records were lost or deliberately destroyed, not through any fears that official secrets and methods might become known, but because the records concerned seemingly mundane matters relating to a conflict which seemed minor and trivial in the wake of the First World War. Notable among the records lost or destroyed were most officers' reports from the front. In addition to the records in the custody of the National Archives and the Australian War Memorial, serious researchers must be prepared to scour the collections housed in state archives across Australia and, if they want to fully understand military operations, in archives in South Africa and Britain (for a brief discussion of these records see Appendix 2).

The opening of the Australian War Memorial in 1941, and the establishment of the Archives Division of the Commonwealth National Library in 1948, created two national repositories for surviving Australian official records on the war which attracted not only surviving Commonwealth documents but also some long-forgotten colonial material. The National Archives and the War Memorial together – and they may be considered together, as their official records can be found by using the National Archives RecordSearch database – hold the largest single collection of Australian official records of the war. This scattered, incomplete, yet invaluable collection is the subject of this guide.

## Using this guide

The guide first describes the large general series of records relating to the war which ranged across policy, administration, war service and repatriation. It then considers aspects of the war for which smaller series and specific items from the large general series are relevant. Those aspects are: the commitment of the Australian contingents; the raising and supporting of the contingents by civil and military officers in Australia; the contingents in the field; controversies arising from the war, such as the defeat at Wilmansrust and the subsequent mutiny, and the trial and punishment of officers of the Bushveldt Carbineers who had an Australian connection; and the aftermath of war, involving the return of Australian contingents, the distribution of medals, gratuity payments and pensions, and the memorials and histories devoted to their memory.

Family historians should consult Appendix 1 before reading the body of the guide and beginning their research.

## Description of the records

To fully understand a record it is often helpful to know certain things about it in addition to its contents. For example, it helps to know who created the record, when it was created and what other records exist that deal with the same general subject or issue. This information provides the context of the record, which helps researchers to interpret what the record is really about, determine its relevance, and decide how accurate or complete it might be. The National Archives documents this contextual information for each record in the collection using the Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System.

Under the CRS System records are described and controlled as *series*. A series is made up of *items*, which are the individual files, volumes, maps, cards, diaries, etc that were received into custody by the Archives from the creating department, agency, or individual. Series usually consist of many items, but can occasionally consist of just a few or even a single item.

When the Archives registers a series it gives it a series number and describes the creating agency, the subject matter of the series, its date range, the format of the individual items making up the series, their quantity (expressed in shelf metres), where they are held and details of related series. The following figure sets out the manner in which the records are described throughout the guide.

❶	<b>BOER WAR VETERANS' FUNERAL BENEFIT FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BW (BOER WAR) PREFIX</b>	<b>D4549</b>
❷	Recorded by: <b>1939-60: Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, South Australia (CA 877)</b>	
❸	<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>0.36 metres</b>
❹	This series consists of correspondence concerning claims made for the supplementation of funeral benefits for deceased men who fought in the Boer War. Files can include letters from next of kin, invoices from undertakers, applications for grants towards funeral and burial expenses and claims for pensions.	
❺	<b>FLEETWOOD, Charles Rufus [Boer War veteran, funeral benefit]</b>	<b>D4549, BW66</b>
❻	This item includes embarkation and disembarkation details of the 5 <sup>th</sup> South Australian Contingent as proof of Fleetwood's service in South Africa.	

### Key

- ❶ This is the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- ❷ This is the **person or government agency that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are a unique identifier allocated by the National Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or

agency, and the records they created, from the National Archives' online database, RecordSearch.

- ③ This is the **total volume of records** in the series and the **location** where the series is held. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- ④ This is a brief **description of the series**.
- ⑤ This is **the title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- ⑥ This **describes the main contents of an item**. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.

## How the records are described

The records described in the guide include the original item number allocated by the creating agency together with the series number, and these must be cited in any inquiry about the records. Together the series and item numbers provide a useful shorthand way of referring to a specific record item. Details about how to cite the records described in this guide are given under *Citing the records*.

Individual files can be located electronically by file number or by keyword-in-title searches using the RecordSearch database, which is available in all Archives reading rooms, at the Australian War Memorial, and on the Archives website.

## Access to the records

Researchers are welcome to visit the National Archives reading rooms and the Australian War Memorial Research Centre to examine the records described in this guide. Before you visit, please make sure that the record is held by the reading room you plan to visit. There is no equivalent of the inter-library loan system for archives. To safeguard the records, they are not moved between the Archives offices and to see the records you will need to visit the reading room in the city shown as the location of the records.

In addition, given that the reading rooms of some of the Archives offices are separate from the main repository area, it may also be beneficial to pre-order any material you wish to see to ensure that it is ready upon your arrival. To pre-order records please telephone, write to or email the reading room listed as holding them. Contact details of all offices of the National Archives and the Australian War Memorial are given in Fact Sheet 1.

If you cannot visit a reading room you may arrange for a representative to do so on your behalf (see Fact Sheets 40–45, Research Agents), or alternatively you may wish to obtain a photocopy of the record. To obtain a copy you may telephone, write to or email the relevant reading room. Staff are happy to give

photocopy quotes for specific items. Please be sure you have the specific series and item numbers for the records you wish to have copied. Copy charges are set out in Fact Sheet 51.

## Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them from the Archives and when referring to them in written or published works. The correct method of citation will not only help staff of the Archives to locate the records more readily, but will also help other researchers to find the material you have used if they wish to examine it for themselves.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives is expressed as follows: the name *National Archives of Australia* followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: MP744/11, 1900/4047

The name *National Archives of Australia* may be abbreviated to *NAA* provided the full name has been used in the first citation.

## Where to obtain more information

If you are unsure about how to request access to any of the records described in this guide, or if you have any other questions, request a copy of our booklet *Getting Started*, or access it on our website. Alternatively, contact the reading room in your state or territory by telephone, mail, facsimile or email. The contact numbers and addresses for all National Archives offices are given in Fact Sheet 1.

Holdings of relevant material by other organisations in Australia are noted in Appendix 2.

# 1 The General Collections

The general collections on the war largely consist of files and other material created by defence departments, colonial secretaries' offices and local military headquarters to record and manage the raising, administration, payment, return and repatriation of the Australian contingents. Some series also hold officers' reports and other battlefield correspondence from South Africa. Robert Collins, secretary of Victoria's defence department, became secretary of the Commonwealth defence department in 1901 and seems to have taken most of his files with him, and so Victorian and early Commonwealth material overlap in their content and time periods and must be considered together. The only other major group of general records that passed to the National Archives was that maintained by the Queensland administration. Only three general collections are not of Victorian, Queensland or Commonwealth origin. One of these consists of early Cabinet papers, another is a collection of records mostly from New South Wales while the third consists largely of material received by early governors-general. In all three of these series, records on Australians and the war form only a part.

## Victorian and Commonwealth collections

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1885–1901**

**B3756****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne 4.93 metres**

Perhaps 5 per cent of these general correspondence files on the administration of Victoria's military forces are relevant to the Boer War. Most are thin and concern the personnel rather than policy aspects of officer appointments and the return of wounded soldiers.

**Gunnery Lieutenant J Biddlecombe – Application for Employment on Active Service, 1898–99      B3756, 1899/2887**

**Lt Col Wallack – possible attachment to Vic Forces in South Africa, 1900  
B3756, 1900/627**

**Invalided Soldiers on board the SS *Persic*, 1900      B3756, 1900/7916**

**Rev J Boardman – Report to Citizen's Bushmen's Contingent on Active Service in South Africa – Application for position of Chaplain in Federated Forces of Australia, 1901      B3756, 1901/206**

Boardman reports in support of his application that: 'During the period of my appointment I conducted about one hundred services, consisting chiefly of the regular morning parades, voluntary evening services and Holy Communions; also services with the refugees including baptisms of English and Boer children as well as a few services with the Kaffirs through interpreters.'

**Vet Capt E C Kendall: Visit to England re work of Army Veterinary Department, 1901      B3756, 1901/2784**

**'INDEX BOOKS' REGISTER OF CORRESPONDENCE AND INDEX TO REGISTRATION LOGS,  
1886–1901 B1461****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne 0.36 metres**

These five volumes registered the inward correspondence now in series B3756 (see above) but do not contain the usual summaries of their subject matter. Volumes for 1898–1900, 1900 and 1901 are relevant.

**Numerical indexes to inwards correspondence registers, 1886–1901  
B1461, whole series**

**DEPARTMENTAL COPIES OF MINUTE PAPERS APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL, 1901–03 A9298****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Canberra 0.18 metres**

Brief and businesslike executive council submissions to the Victorian and Commonwealth Departments of Defence, largely confirming officer appointments and arrangements with contractors to supply the fifth Victorian contingent and the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

**Loose submissions dated 1901 from Department of Defence to Executive  
Council, 1901 A9298, 1901**

**Loose submissions dated 1903 from Department of Defence to Executive  
Council, 1903 A9298, 1903**

**SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911  
A6443****Recorded by:****1899–1901 Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340);  
1901–11 Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Canberra 3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Australian Commonwealth Horse – case of ex Trooper Hodgson, 1904  
A6443, 105**

Compensation for a soldier kicked by his horse while on parade in Sydney.

**Printed notice: 'Conditions of service for the Contingents now being raised on  
behalf of the Imperial Government for service in South Africa', 1900  
A6443, 221**

Advice for those joining Victoria's Imperial Bushmen Contingent that 'the Colonial Government merely acts as an agent...and takes no responsibility with regard to...rates of pay, conditions of service, or claims for compensation or gratuities'.

**Major R N Howse VC, Australian Army Medical Corps. Arrears of pay and gratuity, 1905–07      A6443, 237**

**Nomenclature and organisation of 5th to 8th Battalions Australian Commonwealth Horse, 1902      A6443, 281**

Records the discussion which settled the name and, in part, the organisation of the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

**List of officers warrant and non-commissioned officers of the 1st Infantry Regiment who served in South Africa and whose services they may wish to bring to notice, 1902      A6443, 388**

**Re cases of Private Norton & Clarke of the Bushmen's contingent: alleged Boer sympathisers, 1900      A6443, 435**

A warning to the commanding officer of Victoria's third contingent to watch two of his men; includes police reports

**No. 185 Private G H Knott 2nd Victorian Contingent invalided, 1901      A6443, 521**

**Adjustment of accounts with War Office, 1905–07      A6443, 575**

Suggests the tediousness of the task of apportioning costs between imperial, Commonwealth and state governments.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06      B168**

Recorded by:

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne      9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Returns of military strength – China and South Africa contingents, 1901      B168, 1901/3438**

**Report on 1st and 2nd South Australian Contingents, 1899–1901      B168, 1901/5306**

Lists names, ranks, promotions, distinctions, and previous and subsequent military service of members of South Australia's first and second contingents.

**Green J W – award and medal, 1901      B168, 1902/4**

**Major Murray – Whether suitable for an appointment with the Commonwealth contingent, 1902      B168, 1902/579**

**Lord Tullibardine's request for more men for the Light Horse, 1901–03      B168, 1902/709**

Tullibardine's request for 200 Australian reinforcements for his Scottish Horse draws the reply that: 'This cablegram is evidently the result of some private communication



to Lord Kitchener, and I do not think that the Government should take action with regard to such communications.'

**South Africa – extension of engagement of 5th & 6th Mounted Infantry, 1902  
B168, 1902/1098**

**Boer escapees – care to be taken, 1902                      B168, 1902/2044**

Imperial warning that Boers on the run may be enlisting in colonial contingents.

**Capt. A J N Tremearne resignation commission in VMF and appt for special  
service in Ashanti, 1900–04      B168, 1903/2310**

Concerning whether Tremearne, who joined the British army after serving in Victoria's first contingent, should have to resign his commission in the Commonwealth Military Forces. Early folios are addressed to Victoria's Premier, and the file is a good example of Collins' wholesale transfer of Victorian defence correspondence into the Commonwealth sphere.

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38  
AWM3**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)    3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**The Designation of the Contingent of Mounted Troops for South Africa – 1st,  
2nd, 3rd and 4th battalions Australian Commonwealth Horse, recommended  
by Maj Gen E Hutton, 1902      AWM3, 02/132**

**Correspondence regarding the conduct of Lieut de Passey and a request for  
directions as to what is to be done when he returns from South Africa, 1902–  
03      AWM3, 02/476**

**A record of sentences passed by Courts Martial on members of the Australian  
Contingents in South Africa, 1900–02      AWM3, 02/616**

**A diary of 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse at Camp Kitchener's  
Kopje and correspondence, 1902      AWM3, 02/1555**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1906–13**

**MP84/1**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne    37.26 metres**

A tiny portion of the vast routine correspondence of the department, subsequent to that held in series B168, addressed administrative matters arising from the war, largely the award of medals.

**Bushmen's Contingent to South Africa: decorations, 1905–06      MP84/1,  
1019/1/2**

**Promotion of account of South African service, 1901–08      MP84/1,  
1930/1/12**

This file contains state lists of officers' promotions; officers mentioned in dispatches; officers receiving the DSO, CB, CMG, and Victoria Cross; and chaplains who served with the contingents. It also contains correspondence between various Ministers, the Governor-General and General Lord Kitchener.

## Queensland collections

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–03      MP744/1****Recorded by:****Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)****Melbourne    1.44 metres**

General correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, largely relating to the draft contingents and not confined to pay matters. Some of the 583 files concern payment of personnel and medical and disciplinary factors affecting their pay; others concern medals or officers' reports from South Africa.

**Diary and casualty list Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent,  
1901    MP744/1, 5/OC****Menmouth J – result of medical examination, 1901      MP744/1, 477/CS****Enquiry regarding pay of Private H H Welch, 1902      MP744/1, 2065/W****Medal roll Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1901  
MP744/1, 2539/OC****Non-Commissioned Officers Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent,  
1902    MP744/1, 2842/OC**

Includes dates of attestation, appointments and promotion and remarks such as reverted to ranks, killed in action and invalided to Queensland.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OFFICE,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01      MP744/3****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne    0.72 metres**

These 417 files contain routine correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, primarily the draft contingents. Most concern medical, pay and discharge matters for individual soldiers.

**Scottish Metropolitan Life Assurance Company – wishes to undertake  
insurance of men of Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent, 1900  
MP744/3, 1900/1201**

A request for the contract to insure contingent members for death and injury on active service.

**Cox W and Rossiter W L – enquiry by Charters Towers Patriotic Fund re payment to them, 1900 MP744/3, 1900/8094**

**McIntosh D – disposal of effects etc. (Papers and medical sheets sent to Patriotic Fund) MP744/3, 1901/4938**

A plea from a returned soldier to know 'how I stand financialy [sic] with the Military' and to recover his lost 'black Military coat new never worn only on the trip across from Cape Town'.

**Diary of voyage of HMT Templemore from Brisbane to Capetown from Commanding Officer Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1901 MP744/3, 1901/5392**

Includes records of diet and daily routine on board ship from Australia to South Africa.

**Kelk, Eustace. Medical report, 1901 MP744/3, 1901/9573**

**Richards T – medical report and application for assistance from Queensland Patriotic Fund, 1901 MP744/3, 1901/9644**

**REGISTERED PAPERS OF THE STAFF OFFICER FOR MOUNTED INFANTRY, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1901 MP744/7**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.06 metres**

Four of these eight files are diaries forwarded by Queensland's fifth draft contingent; the rest concern individuals and a skirmish at Koster River.

**Diary of 5th Contingent Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1–30 April 1901 MP744/7, 1/974**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899–1907 MP744/11**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 1.8 metres**

This correspondence relates to arrangements for the Queensland contingents to serve in South Africa. Most of these 500 files concern medical and insurance matters and procedures for raising, despatching, returning and repatriating members of Queensland's third and fourth bushmen contingents.

**Livesey C E – request that in event of death insurance be paid to Miss Harris, 1900 MP744/11, 1900/3311**

**Hilder J O – killed in South Africa – payment of insurance money, 1901 MP744/11, 1901/5111**

**Re claims for compensation by Officers in respect of horses lost in South Africa, 1902 MP744/11, 1902/3506**

**Pooley, Lieutenant A E – gratuity due to estate, 1903 MP744/11, 1903/2881**

**Detmold P G – application for medal and clasps, 1907 MP744/11, 1907/1200**

## Other collections

### FOLDERS OF COPIES OF COMMONWEALTH CABINET PAPERS, 1901–

**A6006****Canberra 14.4 metres**

An artificial series compiled by the National Archives to record early Cabinet activity and decisions. Microfilm copies for the Boer War period (itemised as 'Barton January 1901–September 1903' and '1st Deakin September 1903–July 1905') are available in all Archives offices. High policy is absent from this series, but three special papers are relevant:

**Reply to Lord Tullibardine Natal, 1901      A6006, 1901/12/31**

Passes to the states the question of allowing the Marquis of Tullibardine to recruit his 2nd Scottish Horse in Australia.

**Suggestion to send Boer prisoners to Tasmania, 1901      A6006, 1901/12/31**

Records that Cabinet was 'unable to recommend Chamberlain's suggestion'.

**Remuneration to officers of Commonwealth service in connection with despatch of contingents to South Africa, 1903      A6006, 1903/12/31****CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936      A6661****Recorded by:****Governor-General (CA 1)****Canberra 10.26 metres**

Around 200 items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Most are transcriptions of cables from the Secretary of State for Colonies in London and Kitchener in South Africa during the war's final stages, often concerning the return of Australians from South Africa.

**Sums due to estates of members of the Colonial Forces dying in South Africa, 1900–01      A6661, 536****Commonwealth contingents for South Africa: raising, equipment etc, 1901      A6661, 537**

Telegrams and transcriptions on procedural arrangements following the decision to raise the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

**Tullibardine's Scottish Horse, 1900–01      A6661, 580**

Telegrams on the partial raising of the unit in Australia.

**Claims for compensation for horses lost in South Africa, 1901–02      A6661, 646**

Includes a veterinary opinion by Peter Handcock of the Bushveldt Carbineers.

**PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943****AWM1****Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**  
**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**  
**1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**  
**1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

**Nominal rolls of personnel medically examined for military service in South Africa, NSW Imperial Bushmen, 1900 AWM1, 3/11****Pay records 1st, 2nd and 3rd Commonwealth Contingents from Victoria to South Africa including nominal rolls of contingents, 1902–04 AWM1, 3/38****Reports from Col S C U Smith Commanding Officer A Battery NSW Artillery, 1899–1901 AWM1, 4/2**

A good running commentary on his unit's experiences, with a typical wish to return home: 'We should all like to go...but there is little chance for ages'.

**Reports from Special Service officers serving in South Africa, submitted to HQ NSW Military Forces, Sydney: a) Lt Col M W Bayly, Aug 1900; b) Capt R S Pearce, NSW Field Artillery, Feb–Sep 1900, including voyage on SS *Moravian*; c) Capt A P Luscombe RAA, Feb–Oct 1900; d) Lieut J M Conroy, NSW Engineers, Jun–Aug 1900; e) Lieut C F Brace, NSW Artillery, Feb–Jul 1900; f) Lieut G J Grieve, Jan–Dec 1900; g) Maj W T Bridges, May–Jul 1900, 1899–1900 AWM1, 4/7**

Lieutenant Grieve's reports include doubts about a British army regiment's morale and a request to be promoted to captain 'as in my present rank I find myself serving under officers who are much younger and more inexperienced, and, I venture to say, with less professional knowledge than myself'.

**Nominal roll of NSW troops embarking on SS *Surrey* for South Africa, 17 Jan 1900 AWM1, 4/16****Index to register of distribution of medals 3rd Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa, 1902–04 AWM1, 5/5**

## 2 Committing the Contingents

### The official commitment

Australian governments made four separate commitments to send contingents to the war. The first was the sometimes cautious agreement made by colonial governments on the eve of the war and after their military commandants had met and advocated raising an Australia-wide force. The second was the more enthusiastic decision made in the wake of Black Week to raise the second wave of contingents and to sanction the raising of citizens and imperial bushmen's contingents. The third, to raise the draft or fifth wave of contingents, was a more dutiful agreement made early in 1901 in response to Kitchener's call for reinforcements to take the place of the previous contingents now returning home. The final commitment, to raise the Australian Commonwealth Horse, was the first made by the Commonwealth Government and was intended to replace the draft contingents due to return home.

Three of the four commitments were matters between the imperial government and the six colonial governments, at a time when cabinets of the day were little inclined to record their deliberations. There are, therefore, few significant records of the commitments held by the National Archives or the Australian War Memorial.

#### **SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911 A6443**

##### **Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Canberra      3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Printed publication 'Report of a conference of military commandants held at Victoria Barracks Melbourne on the 28th Sept 1899 and following day', 1899  
A6443, 285**

Records the colonial commandants' plans, never acted on, for a 2000-strong Australian contingent to the war.

**Memo re meeting of Colonial Commandants to organise a united Australian Contingent, 1899      A6443, 423**

A request that the six colonies' commandants meet in Victoria Barracks in Melbourne when discussing the matter.

**Conditions of enlistment and constitution of 1st Victorian Contingent, 1899  
A6443, 678**

Transcript of Chamberlain's telegram of 3 October asking for small, preferably infantry, contingents from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

**Respecting Lord Brassey's proposed formation of an Australian Regiment for general service, 1900      A6443, 679**

Chamberlain's advice of February 1900 to wait till after the Boer War before considering this plan (one among many) to consolidate the citizen soldiers of the British Empire into a reserve for the British army.

**PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL TO SEND MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE TO THE TRANSVAAL, 1899      B5182**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Legislative Assembly (CA 6801)**

**Melbourne      0.01 metres**

A copy of the parliamentary paper printed by the Queensland Legislative Assembly which published all official correspondence on the offer, recruitment and organisation of the colony's first contingent, with some insignificant annotations on the front page. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Parliamentary Papers re proposal to send Queensland Defence Force members to Transvaal Boer war, 1899      B5182, whole series**

**CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAMS AND CORRESPONDENCE, HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1899–1900      M744/6**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.18 metres**

Twelve confidential telegrams, letters or submissions on procedural planning and personnel matters largely concerning the despatch of the first Queensland contingent. There is almost no policy discussion.

**Copy of submission from the Commandant Queensland Defence Force to the Hon Chief Secretary Brisbane concerning rates of pay for the Transvaal contingent, 15 September 1899      MP744/6, 251A**

Notes that officers should provide their own equipment and horses.

**Telegrams in code to Major General H Gunter Australian Club Sydney from James R Dickson, 10 October 1899      MP744/6, 547**

Forwarding Chamberlain's request of 3 October 1899 for small colonial contingents.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899–1907      MP744/11**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      1.8 metres**

This correspondence relates to arrangements for the Queensland contingents to serve in South Africa. Most of these 500 files concern medical and insurance matters and procedures for raising, despatching, returning and repatriating members of Queensland's third and fourth bushmen contingents.

**Copy of telegram from Secretary of State for the Colonies accepting offer by Queensland Government of troops for South Africa, 1899–1907 MP744/11, 1899/8235**

Another transcript of Chamberlain's telegram of 3 October, with notation ordering the immediate return of Queensland's commandant after the Melbourne conference.

**Confirmation by London Office of telegram re offer of acceptance of Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent with copy of letter affirming acceptance of offer, 1900 MP744/11, 1900/2729**

Conveys London's grateful acceptance of more mounted troops.

## Offers to serve

The commitments were not solely matters of state. With no power to conscript men to fight overseas and with almost no military forces other than militias and volunteer forces composed of citizen soldiers restricted to home defence, Australian governments both before and after Federation had to rely on the martial enthusiasm of their citizens if the contingents to South Africa were to be filled. Though the first wave of contingents filled only slowly, this reflected not so much pervasive scepticism toward the war but a general feeling that the British army would not really need help from semi-trained citizen soldiers. Once the need was made clear, thousands of Australians indicated their willingness to serve in South Africa.

**SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911 A6443**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Canberra 3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Enquiries re joining Marquis of Tullibardine's Scottish Horse Part 1, 1900–01 A6443, 45**

**Proposal by Australians in London for a fund for equipping mounted bushmen from colonies, 1899–1900 A6443, 118**

Agitation by prominent Australians in London after the defeats of Black Week to rouse their compatriots back home to join in the war 'at this crisis in the history of the Empire'.

**1st Commonwealth Contingent: Nurses, 1902 A6443, 302**



Requests from women to serve as nurses with the Australian Commonwealth Horse, one woman writing 'I would so much like to go and assist the nurses or do something for our poor men'.

**Letter from General Secretary Young Men's Christian Association offering services to Bushmen's Corps, 1901 A6443, 564**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06**

**A6394**

**Recorded by:**

**Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**Canberra 0.36 metres**

Five boxes of applications to serve in the second regiment of the Marquis of Tullibardine's 2nd Scottish Horse, a non-Australian unit partly recruited in Victoria among men who could make some claim to Scottish descent and, often, who were rejected for service in the draft contingent being raised at the time. The boxes hold signed pledges to accept imperial discipline and make no claims on the Victorian Government. Marital status is the only personal information recorded on the applications. The boxes are organised alphabetically and include:

**Applications for Adams G O – Davies D W, 1901 A6394, NN**

**Applications for Mitchell J C – Selby P, 1901 A6394, NN**

**PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943**

**AWM1**

**Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**

**1883–1901 Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**1939–42 Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

**Nominal roll of applicants for active service in South Africa with ages, addresses, previous service, 1899 AWM1, 3/1**

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38**

**AWM3**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Melbourne 3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**Applications for Commissions, 2nd Commonwealth Contingent. 16**  
**Applications by letter, 1901–02    AWM3, 02/161**

**Correspondence regarding a deputation of bushmen seeking service in South Africa, 1902    AWM3, 02/879**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06    B168**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne    9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**South African ex servicemen desirous of returning to Sth Africa opinion re, 1901    B168, 1901/1734**

Captain Thomas's request to know whether 'Minister disapprove my offering Lord Kitchener privately raise another bushmen's regiment without expense Commonwealth'. A returned officer of the New South Wales Citizen's Bushmen contingent, Thomas was later to defend Morant and Handcock during the Bushveldt Carbineers trial.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1885–1901    B3765**

**Recorded by:**

**Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**Melbourne    4.93 metres**

Perhaps 5 per cent of these general correspondence files on the administration of Victoria's military forces are relevant to the Boer War. Most are thin and concern the personnel rather than policy aspects of officer appointments and the return of wounded soldiers.

**Gunnery Lieutenant J Biddlecombe – Application for Employment on Active Service, 1898–99    B3756, 1899/2887**

**Lieutenant Commander W J Colquhoun DSO VN: Application to serve in South Africa; Rate of Pay; Courses in England; Passage arrangements etc, 1900–01    B3756, 1901/2944**

There was little scope for fighting by Australian sailors against an enemy without a navy, but Colquhoun embarked with Victoria's first contingent.

**CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO MEMBERS OF THE 1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE FIRST AND SECOND CONTINGENTS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899–1900    C3167**

**Recorded by:**

**New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Sydney    0.18 metres**

Rolls created around July 1899 of members of one company of the New South Wales 1st Infantry Regiment who volunteered for service in South Africa if required.

Name, rank, regimental number, age, marital status, height and chest measurement, and riding and shooting ability are given.

**Correspondence relating to members of the 1st Australian Infantry Regiment who volunteered for active service in the first contingent to the Boer war, 1899–1900 C3167, whole series**

*Anders. 27. 52 Paklands  
Dinnboola  
24/3/02*

*Captain Collins*  
Dear Sir as they are  
talking of sending  
another Contingent to South  
Africa I would be much  
obliged if you would send  
me word in good time  
I sent in an application for  
the last Contingent but  
I got down too late. I have  
250 miles to go by train  
so please give notice in good  
time and oblige.

*yours truly  
D. S. Andersson*

A hopeful applicant for the next contingent of the Australian Commonwealth Horse.  
NAA: A6443, 21

**REGISTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED, 1888–1909****SP820/3****Recorded by:****1901–09: Commonwealth Military Forces, New South Wales District Headquarters (CA 6334)****Sydney      5.4 metres**

Volumes 5 and 6 of these inward correspondence registers record applications by soldiers and nurses to serve in South Africa from July 1899. A minute of 3 July 1899 concerning regimental mobilisation may reflect an early fear that the outbreak of war in South Africa would spark conflict between the great powers.

**Registers of correspondence received first Australian Infantry Regiment, 1889–1909      SP820/3, NN****REGISTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED, 1886–1913****SP820/23****Recorded by:****1901–11: Commonwealth Military Forces, New South Wales District Headquarters (CA 6334)****1911–13: 2nd Military District New South Wales [I] (CA 6335)****Sydney      3.6 metres**

Volume 5 of these inward correspondence registers records applications by soldiers to serve in South Africa from at least September 1899 and also efforts by officers to encourage their men to come forward. On 16 December 1899 the regiment's commanding officer called for volunteers to join the second contingent, though a month later he laid down that only 'specially qualified' men were wanted for active service.

**Registers of correspondence received. Second Australian Infantry Regiment, 1899–1906      SP820/23, 6****REGISTERED PAPERS OF THE STAFF OFFICER FOR MOUNTED INFANTRY, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1901      MP744/7****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne      0.06 metres**

Four of these eight files are diaries forwarded by Queensland's fifth draft contingent; the rest concern individuals and a skirmish at Koster River.

**Pope D [application for commission in Sixth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent], 1901      MP744/7, I/395****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899–1907****MP744/11****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne      1.8 metres**

This correspondence relates to arrangements for the Queensland contingents to serve in South Africa. Most of these 500 files concern medical and insurance matters and procedures for raising, despatching, returning and repatriating members of Queensland's third and fourth bushmen contingents.

**Urquhart R – wishes to go with Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1900      MP744/11, 1900/3466**



Six patriotic nurses bound for South Africa, 1900.

NAA: D4477, 425

**Goodger H A – wishes to go with Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1900** MP744/11, 1900/3492

**Report on Action taken regarding applicants for Imperial Bushmen's Contingent from the Police Magistrate Burketown, 1900** MP744/11, 1900/4047

On the problem of medically examining and shipping potential recruits from rural Queensland.

**MISCELLANY OF PAPERS RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE BOER WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1900–17**  
MP744/41

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.01 metres**

This small, random collection of papers and news cuttings, concerns Queenslanders in the war. Two relevant files:

**Newspaper cutting from the *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 1 February 1900 concerning a deputation to the Queensland Premier seeking further troops to be sent to South Africa, 1900** MP744/41, 6

**List of Queensland Officers who have volunteered for South Africa, 1900**  
MP744/41, 7

# 3 Raising and Supporting the Contingents

The tasks of raising and supporting the Australian contingents involved recruiting, identifying and training soldiers; clothing, equipping, paying and insuring them; conveying them to and from South Africa; and keeping in contact with them while on active service. These tasks were discharged by small groups of clerks, staff officers and instructors and, under contract, dozens of clothing, saddlery, shipping, insurance and other business firms. Many of the official records generated by this activity, notably nominal rolls and pay and medical documents, give personal details about soldiers much sought after by family historians. A sample of records generated by New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian and Commonwealth administrations and a good range of Queensland material have come into the care of the National Archives and the Australian War Memorial. What little else is held is grouped at the end of this chapter under *Other records*. Much of it relates to the raising of the only non-Australian unit in the war recruited (partly) on Australian soil, the Marquis of Tullibardine's 2nd Scottish Horse. The National Archives Melbourne office also holds a useful guide to the conditions under which contingents to the war were raised around the empire (see MP684/1 below).

## RECORD OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND OVER-SEA CONTINGENTS EMPLOYED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1901–03

MP684/1

Recorded by:

Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)

Melbourne 0.18 metres

A copy of *Conditions of Service of South African and Over-sea Contingents employed in the South African war, 1899–1902*, which reproduced Acts governing the raising and despatch of contingents from around the British Empire along with announcements of conditions of service and blank attestation forms, discharge certificates and statements of rates of pay. It thus documents the basic conditions under which Australians and other citizen soldiers around the empire served and the legal responsibilities of governments and soldiers.

**Conditions of Service of South African and Over-sea Contingents employed in the South African war, 1899–1903** MP684/1, whole series

## New South Wales

### SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911

B6443

Recorded by:

1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)

1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)

Canberra 3.54 metres



Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

Five relevant items consist of general military orders governing all New South Wales soldiers, whether training at home or embarking for or returning from active service abroad, from 1899 to 1902:

**General orders New South Wales Military Forces nos 107–149 with gaps, 1899  
A6443, 216**

**General orders New South Wales Military Forces nos 1–138 with gaps, 1900  
A6443, 217**

**General orders New South Wales Military Forces nos 4–51 with gaps, 1901  
A6443, 218**

**General orders New South Wales Military Forces nos 1–39 with gaps, 1902  
A6443, 219**

**Military Forces of the Commonwealth: New South Wales District Orders, 1902  
A6443, 220**

**PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943**

**AWM1**

**Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**

**1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 34 metres**

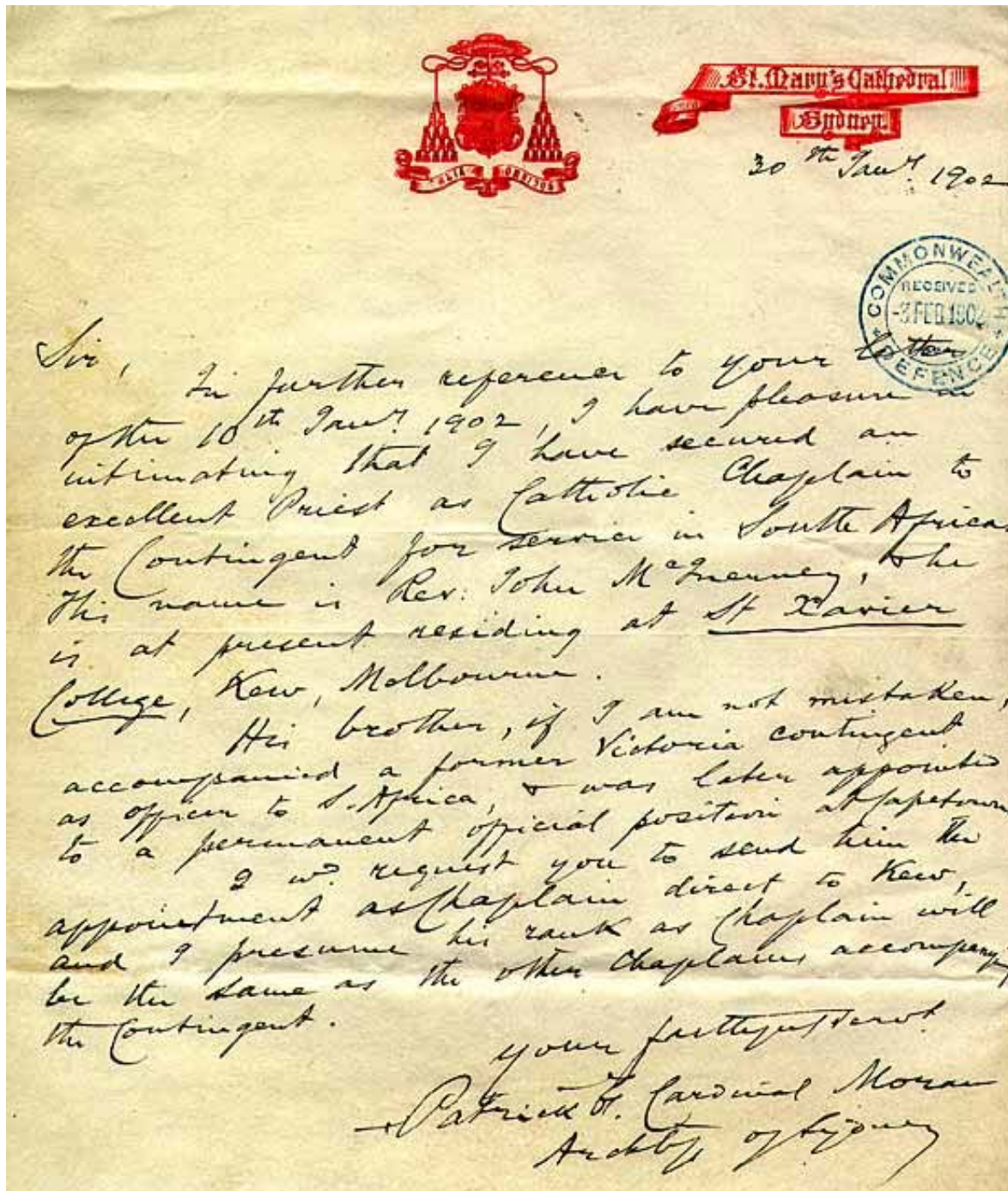
An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

There is much valuable material on the New South Wales draft contingents, nominal rolls for all New South Wales contingents, and some other documents arising from raising and training, including:

**Nominal roll mostly Imperial Draft Contingent for South Africa with  
[enlistment?] dates and previous service, 1899–1901 AWM1, 3/2**

**Nominal roll 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles Imperial Draft Contingent for South  
Africa, 1901 AWM1, 3/12**

**Nominal roll for various NSW units for South Africa with home towns and  
shooting and riding test results, 1901 AWM1, 3/14**



The Archbishop of Sydney's nomination of a Catholic priest to accompany the Australian troops to South Africa.  
NAA: A6443, 2



**Nominal roll of enrolment 1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse (NSW) for service in South Africa, 1902      AWM1, 3/17**

**Papers relating to raising volunteer force for South Africa, 1898–1900  
AWM1, 4/1**

This small collection on the raising of the first three New South Wales contingents includes an application to be accepted as a special service officer, lists allocating officers to units, a list of officers on ships, and notes of the first meeting of the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen's Committee, at which military officials and leaders of the popular movement which raised the unit elected a president and considered how to recruit and mount the contingent.

**CONTINGENT PAY LEDGERS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES FORCES WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1908      B5200**

**Recorded by:**

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne      0.2 metres**

Three volumes and some loose notes recording payments to members of New South Wales contingents, giving name, rank, regimental number, home address, periodic pay details and date of return. Annotations as late as 1908 record post-war adjustments to pay. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Contingent – Ledger, 1899–1901      B5200, 1**

**CB Contingent Ledger, 1900–08      B5200, 2**

**Details of payments to members of Contingents for Service in South Africa, 1900–08      B5200, 3**

**REGISTERS OF PAY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES FORCES SERVING IN THE BOER WAR, 1900–03      B5201**

**Recorded by:**

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne      0.28 metres**

Five volumes recording field pay, gratuity and pension payments for members of the New South Wales draft contingent and giving name, rank, regimental number, pay rate, payee, dates of enlistment and discharge, and amount periodically paid. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Imperial 3rd Regiment – NSW Mounted Rifles: Register of Assigned Pay, 1901–03      B5201, 4**

**3rd Bushmen's (Carrington's) Imperial Draft Contingent: Register of Assigned Pay, 1902–03      B5201, 5**

**PAY LEDGER FOR NEW SOUTH WALES MILITARY FORCES WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1903      B5202**

**Recorded by:**

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne      0.05 metres**

This volume records the payments to the permanent soldiers of the New South Wales military forces who served in the Boer War. Includes name, rank, regimental

number, corps, payee, special war gratuities, allowances (including those to attend the royal commission on the war), pay adjustments, and pay by imperial and State governments. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Pay ledger for Military Forces, State of New South Wales, 1899–1902  
B5202, whole series**

**NOMINAL ROLLS AND LISTS OF MEDALS AND CLASPS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES  
MILITARY FORCES WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1907 B5204**

Recorded by:

**CA 1272 (New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office)**

**Melbourne 0.25 metres**

Fourteen nominal and medal rolls for New South Wales contingent and special service officers giving name, regimental number and rank, and sometimes occupation, religion, birthplace, nationality, marital status, next of kin details (including names of any children), whether invalided or died, and eligibility for medals and clasps. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**South African Contingent 1899 – Returns of Particulars of the Officers and  
Men of NSW Infantry, 1899 B5204, 1**

This roll is unusual in listing soldiers by the units of the colonial military forces in which they served part-time before enlisting for South Africa.

**Nominal roll of First regiment of Australian Horse and New South Wales  
Regiment of Lancers, 1901–03 B5204, 5A**

**PAY LEDGERS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN THE BOER  
WAR, 1899–1902 B5205**

Recorded by:

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne 0.15 metres**

Four volumes of pay details for members of New South Wales contingents, giving name, rank, regimental number, payment and remarks. A partial index appears in the first volume. Further indexes now constitute series B5206. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Payment to members of Military Forces, 1899–1901 B5205, 1**

**Payment to members of Military Forces, 1900–02 B5205, 3**

**INDEX TO PAY LEDGERS FOR THE NEW SOUTH WALES MILITARY FORCES INVOLVED IN  
THE BOER WAR, 1899–1902 B5206**

Recorded by:

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne 0.01 metres**

Partial indexes to volumes 2, 3 and 4 of series B5205, giving name, rank, regimental number and folio number. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Index to volume 2 of pay ledgers for the New South Wales military forces  
involved in the Boer war, 1899–1902 B5206, 2**

**Index to volume 3 of pay ledgers for the New South Wales military forces involved in the Boer war, 1899–1902      B5206, 3**

**Index to volume 4 of pay ledgers for the New South Wales military forces involved in the Boer war, 1899–1902      B5206, 4**

## Victoria

### **SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911 A6443**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)  
1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 3)**

**Canberra      3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Correspondence in connection with despatch of 1st Victorian Contingent to South Africa, 1899–1900      A6443, 194**

This unusually large file detailing the equipment and dispatch of the contingent includes a ship's log of the voyage to South Africa.

**Nominal rolls of 1st and 2nd Victorian Contingents for service in South Africa, 1899–1900      A6443, 258**

### **PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943**

**AWM1**

**Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)  
1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)  
1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)  
1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)  
1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)  
1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities. There is some Victorian material, including:

**Register of salaries and allowances [4th] Imperial Contingent [from Victoria to South Africa] and 5th Victorian Contingent, including nominal rolls of contingents, 1901–02      AWM1, 3/37**

**RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1864–1970                      AWM27****Recorded by:****1927–70: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM)            17.8 metres**

A large artificial series created from Australian War Memorial records once given library catalogue numbers, including some kept originally by World War I official medical historian A G Butler. A few relevant items, nearly all concerning the administration of Victorian contingents:

**Muster Roll of 5th Contingent for service in South Africa and Nominal Roll of 6th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa, 1901–02            AWM27, 100/1**

**Maj Gen Sir J Bruche Collection: Victorian Infantry Company NCOs and men selected for service in South Africa, 1899            AWM27, 100/8 part 1**

One of a five-part personal collection, including nominal rolls, of Julius Bruche, an officer with Victoria's first contingent and the 2nd Australian Commonwealth Horse. This part contains a roll of men selected for service with Victoria's first contingent.

**Maj Gen Sir J Bruche Collection: Embarkation roll of Victorian units and Staff of 2nd Battalion, 1st Commonwealth Contingent, embarked at Melbourne on HMT *St Andrew*, 12 Feb 1902            AWM27, 100/8 part 2**

This part of the collection contains a pay list of the 2nd Battalion of the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

**ENROLMENT FORMS OF VICTORIAN CONTINGENTS, 1899–1900****B5177****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne            0.01 metres**

Extracted from the correspondence which now forms series B3756 (see Chapter 1), these forms record oaths pledged by members of the first three Victorian contingents as well as age, marital status and occupation. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Enrolment forms of Victorian contingents to South Africa (Boer war), 1899–1900            B5177, whole series**

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF VICTORIAN CONTINGENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA, 1899–1901  
B5179****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne            0.01 metres**

Printed muster rolls giving name, rank, marital status, previous military service, occupation and usual residence for members of Victoria's contingents, including nurses. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices. Organised as two items:

**Muster rolls of Victorian contingents to the Boer War – First, Second (Mounted Rifles), Third (Bushmen's), Fourth (Imperial), nurses – and pensions and allowances granted by Imperial Government for wounds on active service, 1899–1900            B5179, volume A**

**Muster rolls of Fourth Victorian (Imperial) Contingent and Fifth Victorian  
(Mounted Rifles) Contingent to the Boer War, 1900–01      B5179, volume B**

## Queensland

**QUEENSLAND – FINE ARTS COPYRIGHT FILES, 1892–1906      A1715**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Government Patents Office (CA 1246)**

**Canberra      0.37 metres**

Copyright certificates sought by Queensland photographers and, in many cases, copies of the work itself. Photographs of soldiers training and departing for the war, enormously popular at the start of the war, are included.

**Copyright certificate Alfred Henry Elliott – "View of the camp" (2 photos), 1899  
A1715, 76**

**Copyright certificate William Thomas Farrell. Photo of group of men and  
officers constituting 2nd Contingent for South Africa, 1899      A1715, 81**

**UNREGISTERED NOMINAL ROLLS, PAY LISTS AND ASSOCIATED ACCOUNTING  
CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS DESPATCHED TO  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1902      A6588**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**1901–02: Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)**

**Canberra      0.36 metres**

Pay arrangements for Queensland contingents, most material relating to the 5th and 6th Imperial Bushmen. Two files contain claims by officers who lost equipment in the defeat at Onverwacht in January 1902.

**Unregistered Nominal Rolls, Pay Lists and associated accounting  
correspondence relating to the Queensland Contingents despatched to the  
South African (Boer) War, 1899–1902      A6588, whole series**

**CAMP AND ORDINARY PAY SHEETS FOR QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS DESPATCHED TO  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1901      A6590**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Defence Force (CA 4424)**

**Canberra      0.18 metres**

These pay sheets were kept by four Queensland contingents in training at Lytton before leaving for South Africa. They record name, rank and regimental number as well as amounts paid, and include printed instructions on pay procedures.

**Preliminary camp pay sheet of exhibition camp held 1899–1900      A6590, NN**

**CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT VOUCHERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICA CONTINGENTS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01 A6591**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Defence Force (CA 4424)**

**Canberra 0.18 metres**

These files record expenditure on and by units, sometimes in the field.

**First South Africa contingent voucher 8197, 1900 A6591, 1/8197**

Concerns a refund of a £10 advance paid to a private soldier invalided home from South Africa.

**SERVICE ROLLS OF QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS DESPATCHED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1901 A6615**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Canberra 0.01 metres**

Lists of reinforcements for the 6th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, giving name, rank, date of birth, height and chest measurements, marital status, former military service and enlistment date.

**Service roll of the 6th Queensland Imperial Bushmen [dispatched on the *Britannic*], 1901 A6615, 1**

Reinforcements despatched on the *Britannic* enlisted in August 1901.

**Service roll of the 6th Queensland Imperial Bushmen [dispatched on the *Harlech Castle*], 1901 A6615, 2**

The *Harlech Castle* reinforcements enlisted in September 1901.

**COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PREMIERS CONCERNING RATES OF PAY, 1900 B5160**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.01 metres**

Copies of correspondence between Australian colonial governments on whether they should top up the pay being offered by the imperial government to members of the Imperial Bushmen contingents. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Copies of correspondence between State premiers concerning rates of pay for fourth contingent to the Boer War, 1900 B5160, whole series**

**PAYLISTS AND PAY INSTRUCTION ROLLS FOR THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1901–02 B5161**

Recorded by:

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.05 metres**

Six folders of pay rolls and receipts for members of Queensland draft contingents, indicating name, rank, regimental number, unit, payee and pay rate. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Fifth Queensland contingent for service in South Africa. Pay lists 1901  
B5161, 1**

**Original instruction roll of officers and NCOs of the Sixth Imperial Bushmen,  
1901 B5161, 6**

**VOLUMES OF SUPPLEMENTS TO THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE RELATING  
TO CONTINGENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA, 1900–03 B5171**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.04 metres**

Two volumes recording general military orders governing all Queensland soldiers, whether training part-time at home or embarking for or returning from active service abroad, during July–December 1900 and January–June 1902. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Queensland Land forces general orders 260–660, July–December 1900  
B5171, 1**

**Military forces of the Commonwealth, Queensland District orders 1–345,  
January–June 1902 B5171, 2**

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH  
AFRICA, 1900–03 B5172**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.01 metres**

Printed lists of men enrolled for service in the six Queensland contingents, giving name, regimental number, rank, address and next of kin. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices. Organised as two items:

**Copies of nominal rolls of Queensland contingents to South African war, 1901  
B5172, folder 1**

**Copies of nominal rolls of Queensland contingents to South African war, 1901  
B5172, folder 2**

**REGISTER OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR THE 1ST CONTINGENT QUEENSLAND  
DEFENCE FORCE, 1899 B5174**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.02 metres**

A volume recording medical examinations of recruits and giving name, number, address, physical description, and whether accepted or rejected. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Register of medical examinations for First Queensland (Mounted Infantry)  
Contingent for South Africa (Boer War), 1899 B5174, whole series**

**RETURNS OF QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS WHICH HAVE PROCEEDED TO SOUTH AFRICA, 1899–1902 B5175****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.01 metres**

A list of Queensland contingent soldiers killed or died giving date, place and cause of death as well as regimental number, marital status and next of kin, and a list of dates of departure of contingents and their ships. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Return of Queensland contingents which have proceeded to the Boer War, 1899–1902 B5175, whole series**

**AGREEMENT FOR TRANSPORT OF QUEENSLAND CONTINGENT TO SOUTH AFRICA, 1899 B5176****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.01 metres**

A detailed document recording the agreement between the Queensland Government and two shipping companies to convey members of the first contingent to Cape Town. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Agreement for transport of First Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent to the Boer War, 1899 B5176, whole series**

**PAY SHEETS OF THE 5TH AND 6TH CONTINGENTS FROM THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1901–02 B5180****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.01 metres**

Fifteen volumes of paysheets recording payments to members of Queensland's fifth and sixth contingents from September 1901 to May 1902, giving name, regimental number, rank, and payable details. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Pay sheets of the Fifth and Sixth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingents, 1901–02 B5180, whole series**

**SERVICE ROLLS OF CONTINGENTS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1901 B5199****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.18 metres**

Seven volumes recording names of men enlisting for service in Queensland contingents and pledging an oath to serve the Queen under military discipline. Records name, rank, age, height, marital status, date of commencement of service, previous military service, signature of witness and remarks, including any early discharges. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**2nd Contingent – Service Rolls, 1900 B5199, volume 3**

**SAW 4th Queensland Contingent Service Roll, 1900 B5199, volume 5**



**SAW 6th Queensland Contingent – Imperial Bushmen – Service Roll, 1901  
B5199, volume 7**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–03**

**MP744/1**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)**

**Melbourne      1.44 metres**

General correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, largely relating to the draft contingents and not confined to pay matters. Some of the 583 files concern payment of personnel and medical and disciplinary factors affecting their pay; others concern medals or officers' reports from South Africa.

**Thomas Cumner – Request for late soldier's final payment by Susanna Cumner, 1901      MP744/1, 1515/C**

**Macleod DJR – enquiry by mother re insurance on deceased son, 1902  
MP744/1, 2600/MC**

**Tannock EJ – enquiry by wife about possibility of payment as she is in distress, 1902      MP744/1, 3670/DF**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OFFICE,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01**

**MP744/3**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.72 metres**

These 417 files contain routine correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, primarily the draft contingents. Most concern medical, pay and discharge matters for individual soldiers.

**Nominal roll of Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent for Service in South Africa, 1901      MP744/3, 1901/6949**

**REGISTERED PAPERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PAYMASTER AND ACCOUNTANT,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01**

**MP744/5**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.06 metres**

The register which controls this series is located in MP744/10 (see below). Some examples of the files within this series include:

**Shaw W – enquiry as to whether he has been discharged, 1901      MP744/5,  
B29/2019**

**Casualty return for the Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent listing appointments, promotions, etc, 1900      MP744/5, B32/934**

**Request from Station Paymaster, Capetown, that monies be recovered from Privates McRae and Stibbards, 1901      MP744/5, B32/2017**

**LETTER BOOKS OF THE SOUTH AFRICA CONTINGENTS PAY OFFICE, QUEENSLAND  
DEFENCE FORCE, 1901–03 MP744/8****Recorded by:****Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)****Melbourne 0.18 metres**

These four letter books containing copies of correspondence on soldiers' pay are fragile and difficult to read. The details presented cast light on individual fortunes in South Africa and the State's reluctance to pay any more than was indisputably needed.

**Correspondence (letter book copies) of the South Africa Contingents Pay  
Office, Queensland Defence Force, 1901 MP744/8, volume 1****Correspondence (letter book copies) of the South Africa Contingents Pay  
Office, Queensland Defence Force, 1901–02 MP744/8, volume 2****Correspondence (letter book copies) of the South Africa Contingents Pay  
Office, Queensland Defence Force, 1902 MP744/8, volume 3****Correspondence (letter book copies) of the South Africa Contingents Pay  
Office, Queensland Defence Force, 1902–03 MP744/8, volume 4****LETTER BOOK COPIES OF STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE,  
1899–1900 MP744/9****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.18 metres**

These letter book copies of statements of pay of Queensland soldiers are fragile and difficult to read.

**Register of papers of the Office of the Paymaster and Accountant, Queensland  
Defence Force relating to contingents to the Boer War, 1901 MP744/10,  
whole series****REGISTER OF PAPERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PAYMASTER AND ACCOUNTANT,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1901 MP744/10****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne 0.09 metres**

A volume controlling series MP744/5, summarising and recording receipt of inward correspondence from July to October 1901. An entry on page 77, for example, records that Lieutenant Wright asked for authority for his wife to draw twelve shillings and sixpence from his pay.

**Register of papers of the Office of the Paymaster and Accountant, Queensland  
Defence Force relating to contingents to the Boer War, 1901 MP744/10,  
whole series**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899–1907****MP744/11****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne      1.8 metres**

This correspondence relates to arrangements for the Queensland contingents to serve in South Africa. Most of these 500 files concern medical and insurance matters and procedures for raising, despatching, returning and repatriating members of Queensland's third and fourth bushmen contingents.

This is probably the best series for routine administration of the contingents; nominal rolls exist for Queensland's first, fourth and fifth contingents. There is some policy discussion.

**Telegram from Police Magistrate Burketown enquiring if half-castes are acceptable as recruits for Imperial Bushmen's Contingent, 1900**  
**MP744/11, 1900/2878**

'Will you accept half castes' asks Burketown's acting police magistrate, 'one is offering and is a good man, he is by a white man and aboriginal mother and has received schooling'.

**Request for decision on number of men for Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1899–1907      MP744/11, 1900/3275**

**Telegram from Secretary of State for War regarding destination of Imperial Bushmen's Contingent, 1900      MP744/11, 1900/4065**

Order to send bushmen not to South Africa but to Biera in Portuguese East Africa, from where they will travel to join in the defence of Rhodesia.

**Request that strong barricade be erected at Pinkemba to keep back crowd on departure of Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent, 1900**  
**MP744/11, 1900/2410**

**Recommendation that cargo of compressed lucerne of *Duke of Portland* be landed as being dangerous, 1900      MP744/11, 1900/2420**

**Reports of Committee of Inspection appointed to report upon the arrangements for the accommodation of troops and horses on the *Duke of Portland*, 1900      MP744/11, 1900/3020**

**AMP Society agrees to insure members of Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent, 1899–1907      MP744/11, 1900/2047**

Includes note comparing the prices quoted by several insurance firms.

**Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Pty Ltd declines to insure members of the Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent, 1899–1907**  
**MP744/11, 1900/2091**

Contains company advice that 'this Society does not see its way to enter into any negotiations for the insurance of the contingent on the ground that it is impossible to assess the risk either collectively or individually'.

**INDEX TO CORRESPONDENCE 1900–01 AND REGISTER OF SHIPS' DEPARTURES FROM  
CAPE TOWN, 1901–02                      MP744/12****Recorded by:****Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)****Melbourne            0.09 metres**

This single-volume index briefly records correspondence received and the departure of ships from Cape Town bringing soldiers back to Queensland.

**Index to correspondence and register of ships' departures from Cape Town,  
South Africa (Boer War) Contingents Pay Office Queensland, 1901–02  
MP744/12, whole series**

**MISCELLANY OF PAPERS RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF QUEENSLAND  
DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE BOER WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1900–17  
MP744/41****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne            0.01 metres**

This small, random collection of papers and news cuttings, concerns Queenslanders in the war. Two relevant files:

**Four pages from the *Queenslander* of 16 March 1901 giving photographs,  
names and addresses of the rank and file of the Fifth Queensland (Imperial  
Bushmen) Contingent being sent to South Africa for the Boer War  
MP744/41, 9**

## South Australia

**ATTESTATION DECLARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT,  
IMPERIAL, BOER WAR, 1901                      AP613/7****Recorded by:****Staff Office Local Military Forces [South Australia] (CA 7465)****Adelaide            0.09 metres**

This series consists of almost 300 attestation papers completed by South Australian members of the 5th Imperial Bushmen early in 1901. These single foolscap pages give the soldier's name, regimental number, age, place of birth, height, complexion, hair, eyes, occupation, religion, rank, date of promotion and name and address of their next of kin

**FLEETWOOD, Charles Rufus, 1901            AP613/7, 255**

Charles Fleetwood enlisted in January 1901 and was invalided back to Australia in November that year.

**LUSH, George Amos, 1901            AP613/7, 366**

**APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF COPYRIGHT OF PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, WORKS OF SCULPTURE, ENGRAVINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1880–1908****D4477****Recorded by:****1880–1904: Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks Offices, South Australia (CA 6825)****1904–08: Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Sub-office, Adelaide (CA 900)****Adelaide 1.64 metres**

Applications for registration of copyright, usually accompanied by the exhibit itself. Includes some photographs relating to the Boer War.

**Photograph of six nurses going to South Africa, plus copyright form  
D4477, 425****Photograph of departure of S.A. Contingent, plus copyright form D4477, 415****Drawing and painting of Souvenir of Fourth Contingent, plus copyright form  
D4477, 433**

## Commonwealth administration

**LIBRARY MATERIAL, SINGLE ACCESSION NUMBER SERIES WITH DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION, 1860–****A1194****Recorded by:****1923–39: Department of Defence [II] (Central Administration) (CA 19)****1939–42: Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)****1942–: Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)****Canberra 40 metres**

The three items described below contain the following types of information for the personnel listed: regimental number, name, rank, age, trade or calling, previous contingent, married or single, permanent address, next of kin and address and relationship, religion, date of joining, port of embarkation, ship, date, rate of pay, date to which paid, allotment of pay in Australia, and net rate of pay in South Africa.

**Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa – Nominal Roll, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions A1194, 33.31/13683****Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa – Nominal Roll, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions A1194, 33.31/13684****Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa – Nominal Roll, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions A1194, 33.31/13685****SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911****A6443****Recorded by:****1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Canberra 3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general

correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Second Commonwealth Contingent, formation of: Confidential wires sent to Military Commandants and their replies, 1902 A6443, 688**

Comments by commandants on the raising of the first four battalions and their confident predictions that it will be easy to find sufficient men for the second four.

**PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943**

**AWM1**

**Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**  
**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**  
**1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**  
**1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

There are nominal rolls and other material on the raising of Australian Commonwealth Horse battalions, including:

**Nominal roll, Australian Commonwealth Horse, with riding test records for enlistment for South Africa, 1902 AWM1, 3/29**

**Nominal roll, Commonwealth Contingent for South Africa in camp at Royal Agricultural Show Ground Sydney, Jan–Feb 1902, with index to Camp Orders, 1902 AWM1, 3/30**

**Register of agents acting for members of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Contingents from Victoria for South Africa, 1902 AWM1, 3/34**

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38**  
**AWM3**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

Some nominal rolls, mostly Australian Commonwealth Horse, including:

**Australian Commonwealth Second Contingent: 1) Copies of Pay Certificate; 2) Embarkation returns; 3) Nominal rolls; 4) Attestation papers of those who sailed on the *Englishmen*, 1902 AWM3, 02/979**

**Request for Nominal Rolls of Battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse for service in South Africa to be forwarded on the day of embarkation, 1902 AWM3, 02/1231**

**Report by J Gordon Commandant SAM Forces following the inspection of 'A' and 'B' Squadrons 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, 1902 AWM3, 02/1244**

**Correspondence dealing with the amount of allowances (overtime) to officers, NCOs and men employed in camp in connection with dispatch of Commonwealth Contingents, South Australia, 1902–03 AWM3, 02/1775**

**Nominal Rolls. Officers, NCOs and men of 'E' Squadron, 2nd Battalion and 'D' Squadron, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse, 1902 AWM3, 02/2555**

**BOER WAR DOSSIERS, LEXICOGRAPHICAL SERIES, 1901–1902**

**B4418**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne 3.84 metres**

The 5 000 dossiers in this series largely comprise attestation papers, often for members of the Australian Commonwealth Horse. Attestation papers give name, place of birth, nationality, age, occupation, marital status, next of kin, address, religion, previous military service in South Africa, and occasionally medical fitness. Other papers found on some dossiers include medical reports and recent correspondence with the Central Army Records Office and its successor, the Soldier Career Management Agency.

**Connors, Francis (Regimental No. 1812) joined 13.2.1902 – Boer War Dossier, 1902 B4418, CONNORS F**

Connors' attestation paper shows him to have been a married blacksmith from Morpeth of the Catholic faith who had fought in South Africa during 1900 with the New South Wales Citizen's Bushmen Contingent.

**Morant, Harry Harbord [regimental number 37], 1901–78 B4418, MORANT HN**

This file consists of three press clippings on Ken Ross's 1978 play 'The Breaker'. It does not contain any service documents.

**Ricardo, P R joined 15.1.1901 – Boer War Dossier, 1901–02 B4418, RICARDO PR**

A photocopy of Ricardo's discharge certificate with advice that 'Cancellation of appointment in the contingent to be submitted separately'.

**Toll, F W joined 20.12.1900 – Boer War Dossier, 1900–02 B4418, TOLL FW**

A Queensland Defence Force form summarises Toll's medical state and pay status.



202/615  
DAG  
02/359.

FILE No 02/8

COMMONWEALTH  
1902  
02/8./3CC.

MILITARY FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

HEAD-QUARTERS,  
Melbourne, March 24th, 1902.

MEMORANDUM.

Secretary of Defence.

1. - In view of being called on to raise four additional Battalions of Mounted Troops for service in South Africa I recommend that the four Battalions which have been raised and organised by the Commonwealth, together with those in prospect, shall be styled the "Australian Commonwealth Horse."

In the event of the proposed nomenclature being approved I recommend that a cable be sent to the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa to that effect.

2. - I propose hereafter that the whole of the Mounted Troops of Australia shall be called "Australian Light Horse" and that the existing Regiments shall be numbered consecutively in accordance with the length of time that they have been organised. Each Regiment should in addition to its Commonwealth number be permitted to retain its present designation in parenthesis. This system is common in the Imperial Army and in most European Armies.

*Edw. G. Hutton*

Major General,  
Commanding the Military Forces  
of the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH  
RECEIVED  
25 APR 1902  
DEFENCE

This letter from Major General Hutton suggests the origin of the name 'Australian Light Horse'.  
NAA: A6443, 281

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE BATTALIONS FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1902****B5207****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne 0.04 metres**

Nominal rolls of nearly all squadrons of the eight Australian Commonwealth Horse battalions, giving regimental number, full name, rank, age, occupation, previous contingent service, permanent address, name and address of next of kin, religion, date of enlistment, and pay details. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Nominal roll – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions – all States B5207, 2****3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Commonwealth Troops – Nominal Rolls – all States  
B5207, 4****REGISTERS OF INWARD CORRESPONDENCE RE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENTS, 1901–04****MP372/8****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne 0.36 metres**

Two registers describing inward correspondence to Commonwealth Military Headquarters received from December 1901 to March 1902 (volume 1) and March 1902 to January 1904 (volume 2) concerning the Australian Commonwealth Horse. Correspondence is listed and numbered in order of receipt and generously summarised, but file destinations for correspondence are not given. Most correspondence seems to have concerned officer selection, equipment, pay and casualties. Entries from December 1901 to late 1902 are indexed by MP372/22 (see below).

**Registers of inward correspondence regarding South African contingents, 1901–04 MP372/8, whole series****SUBJECT INDEX TO REGISTER OF INWARD CORRESPONDENCE RE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENTS, 1901–02****MP372/22****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne 0.36 metres**

A partial index to the registers of inward correspondence on the Australian Commonwealth Horse, series MP372/8 (see above). Entries are divided by alphabetical categories and then by contingent. Alphabetical categories include appointments, attestation papers, allotment of pay, command, casualties, discharge, enrolment, field hospital and bearer company, General Officer Commanding, horses, Minister of Defence, nurses, and pay.

**Subject index to register of inward correspondence regarding South African contingents, 1901–02 MP372/22, whole series**

**LETTER PRESS COPY BOOK, 1901–02****MP744/60****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      0.06 metres**

This fragile and difficult to read volume holds copies of letters sent by the Commonwealth Department of Defence on the Australian Commonwealth Horse from late 1901 to October 1903. Pages 68–71 record 'Instructions to military commandants' that the Australian Commonwealth Horse would 'be raised proportionally in all states' from 'good shots and good horsemen', preferably unmarried. Pages 126–7 warn that 'any promotion made in South Africa does not entitle holder to any rank on return above rank he held in the Commonwealth Forces at time of departure except in cases of promotion for distinguished service'.

**Letter book of Robert Collins, Secretary of Department of Defence, 1901–02  
MP744/60, whole series**

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE EMBARKED FOR THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1902      P2443****Recorded by:****Commonwealth Military Forces, District Headquarters, Tasmania (CA 1571)****Hobart      0.02 metres**

Printed rolls of members of the first four battalions and the eighth battalion of the Australian Commonwealth Horse. Originally held by Tasmanian military historian E M Dollery, they give regimental number, full name, rank, age, occupation, previous contingent service, permanent address, next of kin and address, religion, date of enlistment, pay details and, sometimes, remarks. Organised as three items:

**Nominal Roll for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, 1902, Australian Commonwealth Horse  
for Service in South Africa      P2433, 1st and 2nd Battalions**

**Nominal Roll for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions, 1902, Australian Commonwealth Horse  
for Service in South Africa      P2433, 3rd and 4th Battalions**

**Nominal Roll for 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1902, Australian Commonwealth Horse for  
Service in South Africa      P2433, 8th Battalion**

## Other records

**SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911  
A6443****Recorded by:****1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Canberra      3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of

officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Formation of Western Australian contingents, 1901      A6443, 313**

Clippings from the Government Gazette on the formation, pay and service conditions of the colony's contingents.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936      A6661**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–28: Governor-General (CA 1)**

**Canberra      10.26 metres**

Around 200 items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Most are transcriptions of cables from the Secretary of State for Colonies in London and Kitchener in South Africa during the war's final stages, often concerning the return of Australians from South Africa.

**Tullibardine's Scottish Horse, 1900–01      A6661, 580**

Telegrams on the raising of some of the unit in Australia.

**APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN THE MARQUIS OF TULLIBARDINE'S SCOTTISH HORSE, 1901      A6394**

**Recorded by:**

**Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**Canberra      0.36 metres**

Five boxes of applications to serve in the second regiment of the Marquis of Tullibardine's 2nd Scottish Horse, a non-Australian unit partly recruited in Victoria among men who could make some claim to Scottish descent and, often, who were rejected for service in the draft contingent being raised at the time. The boxes hold signed pledges to accept imperial discipline and make no claims on the Victorian Government. Marital status is the only personal information recorded on the applications. The boxes are organised alphabetically.

**NOMINAL ROLL OF BETHUNE'S MOUNTED INFANTRY FOR SERVICE IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1901      B5203**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1900: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne      0.01 metres**

Printed nominal roll for a unit raised in South Africa in which many Australians served, giving name, rank, home address, date of appointment, promotion, death. No annotation suggests how and why the roll came to Australia. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Nominal roll of Bethune's Mounted Infantry, Boer War, 1899–1901      B5203, whole series**

## 4 The Contingents in the Field

Attached to the British army while in the field, the Australian contingents' primary responsibility was to army headquarters in South Africa rather than to their governments and military commandants back in Australia. Though almost all the paperwork generated by the contingents would have passed to British army staff officers, some (possibly duplicate) returned to Australia, including those ancestors of war diaries, the regular reports made out by commanding officers. All contingents probably brought back to Australia their own administrative records such as pay books, in which payments were recorded, and order books, in which commanding officers recorded their administrative instructions. Though the vast bulk of this material has either been lost or destroyed, or placed in state archives, some is held in the following series relating to New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland units. The experience of only one unit, the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, is well documented.

### New South Wales

#### PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943

AWM1

##### Recorded by:

1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)  
1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)  
1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)  
1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)  
1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)  
1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)****34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

The series has officers' reports from most commanders of the first New South Wales units to serve in South Africa and a smattering of other material for New South Wales contingents.

**a) Diary of Maj G L Lee, Officer Commanding NSW Lancers contingent, 28 Oct 1899–30 Jan 1900, en route to and serving in South Africa; b) Reports on operations in South Africa submitted to HQ NSW Military Forces Sydney by Major G L Lee, OC NSW Lancers, Jan–Dec 1900      AWM1, 4/6**

Includes a long and defensive account of the first reverse involving Australian troops in the war, the ambush at Slingersfontein in January 1900.

**Reports from Special Service officers serving in South Africa, submitted to HQ NSW Military Forces, Sydney: a) Lt Col M W Bayly, Aug 1900; b) Capt R S Pearce, NSW Field Artillery, Feb–Sep 1900, including voyage on SS *Moravian*;**



**c) Capt A P Luscombe RAA, Feb–Oct 1900; d) Lieut J M Conroy, NSW Engineers, Jun–Aug 1900; e) Lieut C F Brace, NSW Artillery, Feb–Jul 1900; f) Lieut G J Grieve, Jan–Dec 1900; g) Maj W T Bridges, May–Jul 1900, 1899–1900 AWM1, 4/7**

Reports from New South Wales officers who served in South Africa, attached to British army staffs or units to learn how to lead or organise troops in the field and to be on hand to take command of any amalgamated units of their colonies' soldiers.

**Appendices to report of OC [Officer Commanding] Troops [Australian Imperial Draft Contingent] aboard HMT *Antillian* for South Africa, compiled by Capt J W Niesigh and submitted to HQ NSW Military Forces, Sydney, from Albany, 1901 AWM1, 4/13**

Captain Niesigh, a Special Service officer placed in command of these reinforcements for the 3rd Regiment New South Wales Mounted Rifles while en route to South Africa, reports in this file on discipline and horse casualties.

**HQ NSW Military Forces, Sydney correspondence relating to the death of Tpr R B Cox 1stM Australian Horse in Adelaide, en route to South Africa per SS *Surrey*, 1900 AWM1, 4/18**

Includes letter of condolence from the New South Wales military commandant to the mother of a young soldier who died in Adelaide on his way to the war: 'I cannot find words to express to you the sorrow I feel at the loss of your son, it is so sad his being suddenly cut off just as he had volunteered for active service so full of life and hope apparently'.

**RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1864–1970 AWM27**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–70: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 17.8 metres**

A large artificial series created from Australian War Memorial records once given library catalogue numbers, including some kept originally by World War I official medical historian A G Butler. A few relevant items, nearly all concerning the administration of Victorian contingents:

**Despatch dated 9 August 1900 received by Col Hore from Asst Gen de la Rey requesting surrender of Elands River Camp and reply by Col Hore dated 10 Aug 1900 refusing to surrender. Also a proof copy of an article 'The Bushmen's Eland's River Siege' by Backblocker (Maj F V Weir) for September 1950 issue of *Pastoral Review*, 1900–50 AWM27, 100/5**

A battlefield relic from a siege which historian Gavin Souter thought 'probably our finest hour in South Africa' and historian Bob Wallace gave book-length treatment. Members of the New South Wales Citizen's Bushmen comprised the largest of several groups of Australians present.

## Victoria

### SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911 A6443

#### Recorded by:

1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)

1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)

Canberra 3.54 metres

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

#### Report dated 17 May 1900 to the Victorian Minister of Defence, 1900 A6443, 392

Dobbin advises that 16 men are in hospital, 17 horses have died of disease, a sergeant was killed in a train accident, and: 'Our troops stand head & shoulders above all Australasians for discipline'.

#### Report dated 2 January 1901 to Captain Collins, Defence Department, 1900 A6443, 404

Dobbin reports that 'large numbers in each contingent has urgent business with their own people & must be allowed return' to Australia.

#### With reference to statements of Captain Hain published in the Age of 4 January 1901 against his efficiency in South Africa, 1901 A6443, 408

A dispute over Dobbin's competence.

**Victorian Bushmen's Contingent.**

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

From List of Casualties at Engagement  
at Korster's River 22/7/00

No 400 Sgt. Puddens killed	383 T. Brooker slightly wounded
395 " Goodman "	445 T. Anderson "
488 T. Mafford "	431 " Kennedy "
418 " Oliver "	561 Eng. Haycroft missing ✓
432 Lt. Col. McCune since dead	527 Sgt. Tracey
440 T. McCarty	630 Sgt. T. Ward
540 " Peters badly wounded	425 T. B. Southward
476 " H. Harris "	482 " Holman
381 " Butler slightly "	382 " Synton
	402 " Lewis
	446 " Blanchard
	526 " Lang
	471 " Mills

missing but reported to be at Blanks River

A list of the casualties from the engagement at Korster's River, 1900.  
NAA: A6443,395

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1885–1901****B3756****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne            4.93 metres**

Perhaps 5 per cent of these general correspondence files on the administration of Victoria's military forces are relevant to the Boer War. Most are thin and concern the personnel rather than policy aspects of officer appointments and the return of wounded soldiers.

**Captain J F Umphelby – report dated Rustenberg 8 December 1900, 1900–01  
B3756, 1901/385**

Umphelby comments that: 'There seems to be no chance of our being sent home to Victoria, but we trust it may not be long'. (Yet when given the chance Umphelby, like many soldiers, re-enlisted, joining Victoria's fifth contingent.)

## Queensland

**PAY LISTS FOR 'H' COMPANY 4TH CONTINGENT QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01****B5164****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne            0.01 metres**

Records the monthly payments given to members of a Queensland company. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Pay list for H Company Fourth Contingent Queensland Defence Force –  
Pretoria Boer War, 1900–01    B5164, whole series**

**ARMY ORDERS, SOUTH AFRICA, 1901–02****B5169****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne            0.07 metres**

Queensland's fifth contingent's copy of orders issued by army headquarters in Pretoria from April 1901 to February 1902, heavily marked where reference is made to the contingent. Most orders refer to appointments and promotions but there are some instructions on operations. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Army orders issued by Army Headquarters Pretoria South Africa (Boer War),  
1901–02            B5169, whole series**



**LIST OF MEN ABSENT FROM REGIMENT, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1901–02  
B5173****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne                      0.02 metres**

Records the duration of, and reason for, absences among the men of the Fifth Queensland Imperial Bushmen contingent. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**List of men absent from regiment Queensland Defence Force, 1901      B5173,  
whole series**

**ROLL OF THE 4TH QUEENSLAND IMPERIAL BUSHMEN – FROM NEWCASTLE TO  
STORMBERG, 1901                      B5181****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne                      0.01 metres**

Roll of members of the 4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, en route between Newcastle and Stormberg, and embarkation from South Africa in mid-1901, giving name, rank and regimental number. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Roll of Fourth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent – from Newcastle  
to Stormberg, South Africa, 1901      B5181, whole series**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–03                      MP744/1****Recorded by:****Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)****Melbourne                      1.44 metres**

General correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, largely relating to the draft contingents and not confined to pay matters. Some of the 583 files concern payment of personnel and medical and disciplinary factors affecting their pay; others concern medals or officers' reports from South Africa.

**Report of Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent in action at  
Onverwacht, 1902      MP744/1, 2634/OC**

An evocative account of the fighting.

**Character of Non-Commissioned Officers and men of Fifth Queensland  
(Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1902                      MP744/1, 3084/OC**

Concerns disobedience among the contingent.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OFFICE,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01                      MP744/3****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne                      0.72 metres**

These 417 files contain routine correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, primarily the draft contingents. Most concern medical, pay and discharge matters for individual soldiers.

**Report No. 10 from Officer Commanding 2nd Regt Australian Bushmen – Casualty List – Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent Pretoria, 19 Jan 1901 MP744/3, 1901/2275**

A detailed report – with any casualty list long removed – of a unit's month in the field.

**Diary of voyage of HMT *Templemore* from Brisbane to Capetown from Commanding Officer Fifth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1901 MP744/3, 1901/5392**

Reveals diet and routine on board ship between Australia and South Africa.

**First and Second Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingents to South Africa: Records lost during return to Australia, 1901 MP744/3, 1901/8161**

Suggests how the order books of Queensland's first contingent were lost.

**REGISTERED PAPERS OF THE STAFF OFFICER FOR MOUNTED INFANTRY, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1901 MP744/7**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 0.06 metres**

Four of these eight files are diaries forwarded by Queensland's fifth draft contingent; the rest concern individuals and a skirmish at Koster River.

**Diary of 5<sup>th</sup> Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) Contingent, 1–30 April 1901 MP744/7, I/974**

## The Australian Commonwealth Horse

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38 AWM3**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**A request that: 'Commanding Officers of the various Battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse to furnish a weekly return and also a diary of events as regards their several units', 1902 AWM3, 02/643**

General Officer Commanding Hutton instructs Australian Commonwealth Horse commanders to forward weekly reports and lists of casualties and the sick.

**A diary of 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse on HMT *Manhattan* No. 81 which left Sydney on 1 April 1902 AWM3, 02/1537**

As well as noting that climbing on rigging is prohibited, the diary reports that horses landed in better condition than expected and that the soldiers were greatly interested in the famous battlefields of Colenso and Ladysmith.

**4th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse: 1) list of promotions; 2) copy of weekly state; 3) extracts from rough diary; 4) Weekly Return of Punishments; 5) Return confirming a death; 6) list of casualties to horses since landing, 1902      AWM3, 02/1609**

**Letter from Lt Col E C J Williams, Commanding Mobile Column, South African Field Force on relinquishing the command of a Mobile Column which performed most efficiently Acting Commanding Officer, 4th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse including: a) weekly state; b) return of punishments; c) horse return; d) weekly copy of rough diary, 1902      AWM3, 02/1662**

Colonel Williams praises his men.

**RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1864–1970      AWM27**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–70 Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      17.8 metres**

A large artificial series created from Australian War Memorial records once given library catalogue numbers, including some kept originally by World War I official medical historian A G Butler. A few relevant items, nearly all concerning the administration of Victorian contingents:

**Maj Gen Sir J Bruche collection: Playlist of A Company 2nd Australian Commonwealth Horse, at sea allowance, disembarked 2 Aug 1902      AWM27, 100/8 part 4**

**Maj Gen Sir J Bruche collection: Capt Bruche's handwritten 2nd Battalion Orders Nos 101–199, 19 Apr–1 Aug 1902      AWM27, 100/8 part 5**

# 5 Controversies

## Wilmansrust

In June 1901 four companies of the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles were ambushed and routed by a small party of Boers at Wilmansrust in the eastern Transvaal. As if this were not shocking enough at a time when serious fighting was assumed to be over and Australian men were thought to be equals of the Boers in cunning and bravery, reports began filtering back to Australia that the British army officer in overall command of the Victorians had called the survivors of the ambush cowards and wasters; that some Victorians had said their commanding officer ought not be obeyed; and that three had subsequently been sentenced to death for mutiny.

The reports proved to be true, though the sentences had been immediately commuted to imprisonment. The Commonwealth Government received no official advice of the mutiny until after the sentences were passed. There were protests against British army generals having the power of life and death over Australian citizen soldiers, but little official documentation on reactions to the affair has survived.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06**

**B168****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Report by Major McKnight on the Wilmansrust affair, 1901      B168, 1901/3859**

Includes McKnight's opinion that the contingent's members 'did their work loyally and well and, had the regiment been handled with even an ordinary amount of tact,... no trouble would have arisen' afterward between the men and their commander.

**Papers re members of 5th Victorian Contingent being sentenced [courts martial] for insubordination in South Africa, 1901–02      B168, 1902/919**

Regrettably there is no trial transcript, but the file contains press clippings, parliamentary questions, a list of Australians tried in South Africa from April–June 1902, and a letter from one of the mutineers.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1885–1901****B3756****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne      4.93 metres**

Perhaps 5 per cent of these general correspondence files on the administration of Victoria's military forces are relevant to the Boer War. Most are thin and concern the personnel rather than policy aspects of officer appointments and the return of wounded soldiers.

**Copy of Minute from Governor-General to Prime Minister – Re Telegram of condolence from Duke & Duchess of Cornwall for heavy losses sustained by Victorian Mounted Rifles near Wilmansrust, 1901      B3756, 1901/3426**

'The Duchess and I are deeply grieved to hear of the heavy losses' and 'heartily sympathise with the whole State in the sad event'.

## Breaker Morant and the Bushveldt Carbineers

The Commonwealth Government's ignorance of matters of life and death for its soldiers would again embarrass it when some officers of the Bushveldt Carbineers, a non-Australian irregular unit raised in South Africa, were tried and found guilty of murdering Boer prisoners, a German missionary and one of their own men. Harry 'Breaker' Morant, who had lived in Australia for ten years before the war and had achieved minor celebrity for his horsemanship and verse writing, and Peter Handcock, a Bathurst blacksmith, were executed by firing squad. Another Australian, George Witton, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Robert Lenehan, the Sydney lawyer who commanded the unit, was sent back to Australia in disgrace. There was a popular belief around the British Empire that Morant and the others had been made scapegoats, that Handcock had only been following orders, and that Witton was innocent. Again there were protests that British army officers should wield the power of life and death over Australian citizen soldiers. Some of the popular disquiet is revealed in the following records.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38****A1****Recorded by:****1903–16: Department of External Affairs (CA 7)****Canberra      184.92 metres**

The Department of External Affairs was concerned with immigration and foreign relations. One early file in this vast series concerns the Bushveldt Carbineers case:

**Position of the following cases – Hazelton, Witton, Horses for South Africa, New Caledonia Convicts, Kanaka Deportation, Ashmore Islands, 1907  
A1, 1907/5457**

Atlee Hunt, the departmental head, reports back to Australia from London that 'the War Office will not depart from their decision' that Witton must remain in prison.

**APPLICATIONS FOR LITERARY AND DRAMATIC COPYRIGHT (WITH EXHIBITS), 1907–1969  
A1336****Recorded by:****1907–1912: Australian Industrial Property Organisation [AIPO], Central Office  
(CA 555)****Canberra 607 metres**

Most items feature the application for registration, a statement of address, the examiner's report, the accompanying exhibit and related correspondence.

**George Ramsdale Witton *Scapegoats of the Empire*, 1907 A1336, 227**

This application refers to the first-hand account of the Breaker Morant affair written by Witton after his return to Australia.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT  
(‘SPECIAL PORTFOLIO’), 1888–1936 A6661****Recorded by:****1900–28: Governor-General (CA 1)****Canberra 10.26 metres**

Around 200 items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Most are transcriptions of cables from the Secretary of State for Colonies in London and Kitchener in South Africa during the war's final stages, often concerning the return of Australians from South Africa.

**Handcock, Morant and Witton, 1902 A6661, 665**

Includes a copy of Kitchener's coded cable sent in response to Barton's request for an explanation of the harsh treatment of Morant, Handcock and Witton. This cable was published in newspapers Australia-wide when it was received, and has been cited in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates and subsequent publications. The published translation of the cable includes the sentence 'There were, in my opinion, no extenuating circumstances'. The translation on file however states 'There were, in my opinion, extenuating circumstances'.

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38  
AWM3****Recorded by:****1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 9)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**Correspondence regarding Major Lenehan being reprimanded after his Court  
Martial for neglect of duty in South Africa, 1902–04 AWM3, 02/673**

Records the tussle between early Commonwealth governments and their military advisers, principally Hutton, over whether Lenehan should surrender his officer's commission in the Commonwealth Military Forces after returning to Australia in disgrace.

**Correspondence regarding the courts martial of Maj Lenehan, late  
Commanding Bushveldt Carbineers in South Africa, and Commanding 'B'  
Battery Field Artillery in NSW, 1903–04      AWM3, 03/673**

Includes Hutton's harsh opinion of Lenehan.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06**

**B168**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne      9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Lt G R Witton – release from prison; Major Lenehan – missing funds, 1902–03  
B168, 1902/2085**

A petition 'humbly submit[ing] there was no criminality in a young and comparatively inexperienced Lieutenant, with no previous experience in the field, less than a month with his corps, less than a week with his detachment, placing faith in and yielding obedience to the distinct assurances and positive commands of two superior officers, having vastly better means of knowledge, and with all the advantage and power of rank and authority'.

**DESPATCHES AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
COLONIES TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL, 1901–11      CP78/1**

**Recorded by:**

**Governor-General (CA 1)**

**Canberra      5.94 metres**

There are two relevant despatches:

**Despatches and other papers from Secretary of State to Governor-General,  
imposed numbers 300–320, 1902–09      CP78/1, 9**

Dispatch 316 concerns appeals by Witton's father and the Labor Party to have Witton retried and compensated for false imprisonment.

**Despatches and other papers from Secretary of State to Governor-General,  
imposed numbers 374–412, 1903–13      CP78/1, 12**

Dispatch 382 concerns Prime Minister Barton's request for full details from the imperial government of why Lenehan was reprimanded, and Prime Minister Watson's restoration to Lenehan of his former military rank.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1906–13****MP84/1****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      37.26 metres**

A tiny portion of the vast routine correspondence of the department, subsequent to that held in series B168, addressed administrative matters arising from the war, largely the award of medals.

**Major Lenehan's case not to be re-opened, 1911      MP84/1, 142/3/5**

Defence Minister Pearce declines a request to press the imperial government to exonerate Lenehan.

## Other controversies

Other controversies, now long forgotten, also arose from the war. Some officers, notably Percy Ricardo of Queensland and S Inglis of Western Australia, were accused of cowardice. Some soldiers were accused of looting and brutality, notably those returning to Australia on the troop ship *Aurania*. When 17 soldiers died during or after returning on another troop ship, the *Drayton Grange*, a public outcry prompted a royal commission. Some of these controversies are well documented.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38****A1****Recorded by:****1903–16: Department of External Affairs (CA 7)****Canberra      184.92 metres**

The Department of External Affairs was concerned with immigration and foreign relations. One early file in this vast series concerns the Bushveldt Carbineers case:

**Introduction of Asiatics into South Africa to work Johannesburg mines, 1903  
A1, 1903/864**

Correspondence reflecting Australian and New Zealand government disquiet that Asian miners might replace European ones after the war, lending credence to a commonly perceived wisdom of the day that the war had been a capitalist-Jewish conspiracy to secure cheap non-European labour.

**SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911  
A6443****Recorded by:****1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Canberra      3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of



officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Replies to queries of Minister of Defence on certain statements of the Acting Commandant, Western Australia, as to conduct of Lieutenants Inglis and Harris while on service in South Africa, 1900–02      A6443, 64**

Accusations that two Western Australian officers were cowards.

**Recovery on account of deficient medical stores, *Drayton Grange*, 1902–03  
A6443, 577**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936      A6661**

Recorded by:

**1900–28: Governor-General (CA 1)**

**Canberra      10.26 metres**

Around 200 items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Most are transcriptions of cables from the Secretary of State for Colonies in London and Kitchener in South Africa during the war's final stages, often concerning the return of Australians from South Africa.

**Aurania – Troops returning in, 1902      A6661, 678**

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38  
AWM3**

Recorded by:

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      3.25 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**Papers relative to the looting by troops of *Aurania* and correspondence regarding a claim by Miss Weiss, 1902–03      AWM3, 02/1265**

Claims for compensation against rowdy soldiers returning to Australia on the *Aurania*.

**Papers dealing with the damages by troops ex *Aurania* at Albany. Further claims for payment made, 1902      AWM3, 02/1354 part 2**

Lassetter, in charge of the *Aurania*, blames the practice of enlisting into Australian units 'deserters from the mercantile marine and the scum of the earth' for much of the trouble in Cape Town.

**Correspondence regarding the conduct of Lts Mecham and Taylor and the burning of a Boer woman's house at Villiersdorp, 1902      AWM3, 02/1520**

**Correspondence regarding the appointment of a Royal Commission into the arrangements made for the transport of troops returning from service in South Africa aboard the transport *Drayton Grange*, 1902      AWM3, 02/2064**

**Conduct of Captain Shields AMS. His action in writing to the press regarding the happenings aboard the *Drayton Grange* on which he was acting PMO on the voyage from South Africa, 1902      AWM3, 02/2213**

**Papers relating to the Royal Commission into the arrangements made for the transport of troops returning from service in South Africa aboard the SS *Drayton Grange* and the non-landing of Trooper Burkett at Adelaide from the SS *Norfolk*, 1902–03      AWM3, 02/2915**

**RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1864–1970      AWM27**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–70: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      17.8 metres**

A large artificial series created from Australian War Memorial records once given library catalogue numbers, including some kept originally by World War I official medical historian A G Butler. A few relevant items, nearly all concerning the administration of Victorian contingents:

**Papers concerning conditions aboard the troopship *Drayton Grange* returning troops from Durban South Africa to Australia, 1902      AWM27, 270/8**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06      B168**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Melbourne      9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Lt Col Ricardo – libel claim against the *Observer*, 1901      B168, 1901/2538**

**Lt S Inglis – charges against whilst serving in S. Africa, 1901      B168, 1901/3915**

Official inquiry into accusations that Inglis had 'left his men in a hole', refusing to advance with them into the firing line.

**Lt S Inglis – charges against , 1901      B168, 1902/2029**

Attorney-General Deakin's doubts about the competence and jurisdiction of the Inglis inquiry.

**Tpr H P Parker – medical expenses illness contracted *Drayton Grange*, 1903      B168, 1903/2052**

A claim that the postwar death of a member of the Scottish Horse was caused by overcrowding and insanitary conditions on the *Drayton Grange*.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND OTHERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES CONTINGENTS WHO WERE KILLED OR DIED ON SERVICE DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.		
1st Contingent	N.S.Wales Bushmen (Continued)	Imperial Bushmen (Continued)
Private S.C. Atchison ✓	Corporal W.L. Spier	Corporal H.A. Bennett ✓
" H.M. Budd ✓	Private W.M. Ayre	Private A. Aberline ✓
" A.L. Cameron ✓	" W. Jones	" J.J. Fahey ✓
" D. Fraser ✓	" J. Lamb	" D. Murray ✓
" J.C. Fraser ✓	" J. Russell	" L. Morgan ✓
" B.A. Halley ✓	" B.W. Waddell	" A.R. Mackellar ✓
" L.C. Hill ✓	✓ S.Q.M.S. J.N. Walton	" P.O'Grady ✓ (21)
" S. McLennan ✓	Corporal E.B. Chesher	3rd N.S.Wales Mounted Rifles
" J. Palazzi ✓	Private R. Cameron	✓ Q.M. Sgt: H. Williams ✓
" F.V. Smith ✓	✓ " H. Drinkwater	✓ Private A.V. Apthorpe ✓
" D. Willis ✓	✓ " F. Toohey	✓ H.M. Bayliss ✓
	✓ J. Waddell	✓ A. Richards ✓
3rd Imperial Bushmen	Sergeant D.J. Barrett	✓ F.W. Russell ✓
Private D.J. Arndell ✓	" A.W. Davidson	✓ W. Wood ✓
" J.L. Bellamy ✓	✓ " J. Myers	✓ Corporal C.S. Smith ✓
" H.N. Black ✓	Private B.J. Quigley	✓ Private A.J. Allingham ✓
" G.H. Burns ✓	1st Bn: A.C.H.	✓ W.T. Berriman ✓
" J.W. Clough ✓	Private W. Wickerson ✓	✓ T.H. Powell ✓
" C. Crawford ✓	Sergeant T.K. Taplin ✓	✓ Lt: G.V.D. Treast ✓
" J.S. Downs ✓	Pte G.S. Mackay ✓	✓ Private J. Daley ✓
" E. Gay ✓	" E.O'Brien ✓ (4)	✓ G.J. Jackson ✓
" R.T.J. Inch ✓	3rd Bn: A.C.H.	✓ C.J. Gosper ✓
" W.P. Kelly ✓	Pte H.R. Sherringham ✓	✓ J.H. Jacobs ✓
" R. Kimpton ✓	" H. St. John ✓	✓ W.C. Jackson ✓
" A. Lindner ✓	" D.A. Smith ✓	✓ E. Sams ✓
" P.J. McNamara ✓	Famer J. Harland ✓	✓ Sergeant S.J. Smith ✓
" W. Macfarlane ✓	✓ E.M.S. J.S. Ryan ✓	✓ Private G. Gander ✓
" W. McKir ✓	4th Bn: A.C.H.	✓ J.E. Lofoe ✓
" W. Newland ✓	Sey. Maj. T.D. Sutton ✓ (6)	✓ C. Wilson ✓
" C. Oldham ✓	5th Bn: A.C.H. - Nil	✓ Sergeant T. Surgeon ✓
" C.O. Loughlin ✓	A.M.C. Contingent	✓ Private I. Bewley ✓
" F.S. Perkins ✓	Private I. Goodsell ✓	✓ " N.V. Cameron ✓
" J.H. Russell ✓	" J.A. Harrison ✓	✓ R.M. Campbell ✓
" J. Seymour ✓	" J. Oram ✓	✓ R. Cumming ✓
" W. Smith ✓	" T. Smith ✓	✓ H.W. Lenon ✓
" C.J. Shaw ✓	" W.H. Loney ✓	✓ R.J. Morrison ✓
" A.J. Stevens ✓	" J.J. Kelly ✓	✓ W. Montgomerie ✓
" W. Scott ✓		✓ Lt: Corpl: J.M. Gray ✓
" H. Paine ✓		✓ Corporal H.T. Jones ✓
" G. Taylor ✓		✓ Private H. McCauley ✓
" H.B. Tame ✓ (A)		✓ J.F. Neary ✓
" W. Tame ✓		✓ R. Richards ✓
		✓ C.T.E. Turner ✓
		✓ A.J. Chisholm ✓
		✓ O.S. Pitt ✓
N.S.Wales Bushmen	Imperial Bushmen (37)	2nd N.S.Wales Mounted Rifles
✓ Private G.T. Cooper	Private F. Andrews ✓	Lieut: G.B. Forster ✓
✓ S.S. Major J. Mitchell	" H.C. Hardy ✓	2nd Lt: E.A. Lamb ✓
✓ Corporal G.R. McGuinness	" G.A. Montgomery ✓	Private S. Ahrens ✓
✓ Private J.C. Aitchison	" J.R. Murray ✓	" T.P. Barker ✓
✓ J.D. Duff	Sergeant E.A. Hyndman ✓	" M. Fastick ✓
✓ D. Fraser	Lt: Corpl: C. Challis ✓	" A. Brown ✓
✓ G.H.F. Gibson	Private T.W. Cressy ✓	✓ W.E. Clancy ✓
✓ A.P.B. Gray	2nd Lieut: R.J.L. White ✓	✓ G.E. Coyle ✓
✓ J.M. Logan	Private E. Daggar ✓	
✓ D.P. Neenan	" H.H. Hancock ✓	
✓ P. Verdon	" A. King ✓	

A list of the soldiers serving in NSW contingents who were killed or died on active service.

NAA: A6443, 525

## 6 The Aftermath

The first significant numbers of Australian soldiers to return from South Africa were members of the first wave of contingents who disembarked at Australian ports at the close of 1900. Nearly all Australian soldiers had returned by August 1902. Not all did so immediately their term of service was concluded. Many hundreds re-enlisted in South Africa or stayed on after the war to farm or mine. Five hundred died during the war.

Many veterans were eligible for gratuities, which were bonus payments offered by governments in appreciation of what seemed selfless patriotism. Some wounded soldiers and the relatives of some of the dead were eligible for what under later Australian parlance became known as repatriation benefits, essentially pensions and free medical treatment. Such benefits were small compared with those distributed in the wake of later wars, and they were paid by a variety of sources: private insurance companies, community-organised 'patriotic funds', colonial and State governments, the Commonwealth Government, and the imperial government. Long after the war, veterans of Australian contingents gradually became eligible for the same repatriation benefits paid to First World War veterans.

Most of the empire's soldiers who served in South Africa were eligible for one or both of two general medals: the Queen's South African medal, awarded for having served between October 1899 and May 1902, and the King's South African medal, awarded for having served on or after January 1902. The ribbons of both medals could be festooned with small metal clasps indicating major actions in which the wearer had fought. Decorations for bravery were freely distributed – too freely, some said. Australians won five Victoria Crosses (VC), the highest award for bravery, and 62 were given the lesser distinction of Distinguished Service Orders (DSO). Twenty-three were made Companions of the Order of the Bath (CB), nominally entering a chivalric order founded five hundred years before. All such rewards were conferred by the imperial government.

### New South Wales

#### PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943

**AWM1****Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**  
**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**  
**1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**  
**1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and



administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

There are seven items with the primary number 5 concerning medals and pensions, including:

**Minute book with index of Pension Board, South African war, 1900–02  
AWM1, 5/5**

Minutes of decisions by a New South Wales pension board on whether to pay pensions, gratuities or compassionate allowance to veterans or their relatives.

**INDEX TO REGISTER OF ISSUE OF MEDALS AND CLASPS, 1903–11**

**B5183**

Recorded by:

**New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**

**Melbourne 0.03 metres**

An alphabetical index to series B5184. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Index to register of issue of Boer War medals and clasps, New South Wales  
Defence Force, 1903–11v B5183, whole series**



Three Australians stand over the grave of their comrade Trooper Nathaniel Horsfall of the 5<sup>th</sup> South Australian Imperial Bushmen who was mortally wounded near Lindley on 24 January 1902.

*Australian War Memorial: A04945*

**REGISTER OF ISSUE OF MEDALS AND CLASPS, 1903–11****B5184****Recorded by:****New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)****Melbourne      0.05 metres**

A large volume recording the issue of medals and clasps to members of New South Wales contingents; the index is B5183. Name, contingent, regimental number, medals and clasps issued and date and place of issue are recorded. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Register of issue of Boer War medals and clasps, New South Wales Defence Force, 1903–11      B5184, whole series**

**LISTS OF MEDALS AND CLASPS, NEW SOUTH WALES DEFENCE FORCE, 1899–1902****B5197****Recorded by:****New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)****Melbourne      0.02 metres**

Typed list of medals and clasps awarded to returned soldiers in New South Wales, organised by unit and including non-Australian units such as the Imperial Light Horse and Bushveldt Carbineers. Also includes a page charting the eligibility of members of Western Australian contingents for medals and clasps. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Lists of Boer War medals and clasps issued to New South Wales and Imperial units, 1899–1901      B5197, whole series**

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF THE 3RD MOUNTED RIFLES AND 3RD NSW IMPERIAL BUSHMEN, 1901–02****B5198****Recorded by:****New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)****Melbourne      0.02 metres**

Two handwritten nominal rolls compiled to record return from South Africa and establish eligibility for medals. Contains name, regimental number, rank, medal entitlements, joining and discharge details including ship name and date. Details of soldiers from other units who returned around the same time are also included. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Nominal rolls of the Third New South Wales Imperial Bushmen Contingent and the Third New South Wales Mounted Rifles Contingent to the Boer War, 1901–02      B5198, whole series**

**REGISTERS OF PAY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES FORCES SERVING IN THE BOER WAR, 1900–03****B5201****Recorded by:****New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)****Melbourne      0.28 metres**

Five volumes recording field pay, gratuity and pension payments for members of the New South Wales draft contingent and giving name, rank, regimental number, pay rate, payee, dates of enlistment and discharge, and amount periodically paid. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**NOMINAL ROLLS AND LISTS OF MEDALS AND CLASPS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES  
MILITARY FORCES WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1899–1907 B5204****Recorded by:****New South Wales Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1272)****Melbourne 0.25 metres**

Fourteen nominal and medal rolls for New South Wales contingent and special service officers giving name, regimental number and rank, and sometimes occupation, religion, birthplace, nationality, marital status, next of kin details (including names of any children), whether invalided or died, and eligibility for medals and clasps. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**NSW Army Medical Corps Imperial Draft Contingent – South African medals, nominal rolls, 1903 B5204, 3A****HQ Staff Special Service. Nominal Roll Lists of Medals and Clasps, 1899–1907 B5204, 4**

## Victoria

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1885–1901****B3756****Recorded by:****Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)****Melbourne 4.93 metres**

Perhaps 5 per cent of these general correspondence files on the administration of Victoria's military forces are relevant to the Boer War. Most are thin and concern the personnel rather than policy aspects of officer appointments and the return of wounded soldiers.

**Mr T Randall, Ozone Hotel, Warrnambool: Offer to accommodate invalid soldiers from South Africa, 1900 B3756, 1900/7718**

A good example of the private, non-government assistance which ended with Australia's generous official repatriation program.

**Invalided members of Queensland contingents arriving in Melbourne: attention to needs, 1900 B3756, 1900/8405**

A note of thanks from a Queensland staff officer.

## Queensland

### **MEDAL ROLLS OF QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS DESPATCHED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1901      A6614**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Canberra      0.01 metres**

A list of medal clasps earned by members of Queensland's 5<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen.

**Copy rolls 5<sup>th</sup> Contingent Queensland Imperial Bushmen, 1901      A6614, 1**

### **MEDICAL HISTORY SHEETS OF MEMBERS OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> QUEENSLAND CONTINGENT RETURNING BY TSS *DEVON*, 1902      B5155**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.01 metres**

Handwritten list of contingent members returning on one ship, giving regimental number, rank, name, age, physical description, height, weight, chest measurement. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Medical history lists of members of the Sixth Queensland (Imperial Bushmen) contingent to the Boer War returning by TSS *Devon*, 1901–02      B5155, whole series**

### **LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE TO WHOM INSURANCE HAS BEEN PAID IN RESPECT OF THE DEATH OF MEMBERS OF THE FIRST FOUR QUEENSLAND CONTINGENTS, QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–02      B5159**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.01 metres**

Two lists detailing insurance payments to relatives of soldiers killed while serving in Queensland's first four contingents. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**List of persons to whom insurance benefits paid on death of members of first four Queensland contingents to the Boer War, 1900–01      B5159, whole series**

### **REGISTERS OF RETURNED SOLDIERS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE WHO SERVED IN THE BOER WAR, 1901–03      B5163**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.23 metres**

Three indexed volumes recording the names, regimental number, rank, contingent, medical condition and date of discharge of Queensland soldiers returning from the war. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**SAW (South African War) Queensland Defence Force Returned Soldiers, August 1901–June 1902      B5163, volume 1**



**SAW (South African War) Queensland Defence Force (Land) Returned Soldiers, May 1901–February 1902      B5163, volume 2**

**SAW (South African War) Queensland Defence Force (Land) Returned Soldiers, July 1902–May 1903      B5163, volume 3**

**MEDICAL RECORDS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, LEXICOGRAPHICAL SERIES, 1899–1902      B5166**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.07 metres**

Medical forms recording the medical examinations of applicants for places in some Queensland contingents, reasons for hospital admission, and the condition of contingent members returning from South Africa. Information recorded on the forms include name, rank, regimental number, age, physical description, remarks by medical officers and clerks. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Medical records of Queensland Defence Force members returned from South Africa (Boer War), 1899–1902      B5166, whole series**

**MEDAL ROLLS AND CLASPS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1902–03      B5167**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.03 metres**

Lists asserting eligibility for medals and clasps. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices. Organised as four items:

**South African medal roll, 1899–1902      B5167, 1**

**Roll of individuals entitled to the King's South Africa medal, *Britannic* Details, *Harlech Castle* Details, 5<sup>th</sup> Queensland Imperial Bushmen, 6<sup>th</sup> Queensland Imperial Bushmen, 1902      B5167, 2**

**Rolls of Second QMI, Fifth Queensland Imperial Bushmen, Sixth Queensland Imperial Bushmen, 1901–02      B5167, 3**

**Roll of individuals entitled to Queen's South Africa Medal and Clasps 3<sup>rd</sup> Queensland MISA Contingent, 1903      B5167, 4**

**RETURNS OF MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR DIED IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1899–1902      B5178**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne      0.01 metres**

Four printed pages giving name, regimental number, rank, contingent and marital status of men of the first four Queensland contingents to die in South Africa, along with date, place and cause of death and name, relationship and address of next of kin. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Returns of Queensland Defence Force personnel who died in South Africa      B5178, whole series**

<u>NOMINAL ROLL</u>		
<u>DETAILS for 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> CONTINGENTS</u>		
<u>for TRANSPORT "HARLECH CASTLE"</u>		
No	Rank and Name	Remarks &c
	Lieutenant Crichton Aubrey De La	of Father A.E. Crichton Redfern, Albion, Brisbane
- do -	Cowley Campbell	of <sup>Hon</sup> Father A.S. Cowley Toowoomba, Brisbane
676	Prvt Welch Edward	of brother William Stephen Welch, Warraknata Victoria.
677	Seale Frederick Henry	of Father J. H. Seale Ruthven St. South Toowoomba
678	Holpen Frederick Ernest	of Mother Mrs. S. Holpen Hemmant, Cleveland Pine
679	Holpen Archibald	of Mother Mrs. S. Holpen Hemmant, Cleveland Pine

A handwritten list of the personnel departing for South Africa on the ship *Harlech Castle*.  
NAA: A6588, box 1

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901–03****MP744/1****Recorded by:****Queensland South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)****Melbourne      1.44 metres**

General correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, largely relating to the draft contingents and not confined to pay matters. Some of the 583 files concern payment of personnel and medical and disciplinary factors affecting their pay; others concern medals or officers' reports from South Africa.

**List of discharges Third Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent, 1901  
MP744/1, 24/DF**

**Gratuities paid to members First Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent  
and Second Queensland (Mounted Infantry) Contingent and claim by Captain  
H G Feilden, 1901–02      MP744/1, 4080/CS**

**Sergeant James Strang – request by mother, Mary Strang, for gratuity due to  
her late son, 1902      MP744/1, 4440/S**

**Graves of Troopers Macleod and VS Jones cared for by Guild of Loyal Women  
of South Africa, 1901–02      MP744/1, 4611/MIS**

Care for the graves of David McLeod and Victor Jones, killed on 1 January 1900 and the first members of any Australian military contingent to die in battle.

**Request for medals for Victor E Thompson No. 192 Fourth Queensland  
(Imperial Bushmen) Contingent & No. 686/6th Queensland (Imperial Bushmen)  
Contingent, 1903      MP744/1, 4971/T**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HEADQUARTERS BRIGADE OFFICE,  
QUEENSLAND DEFENCE FORCE, 1900–01****MP744/3****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne      0.72 metres**

These 417 files contain routine correspondence on Queensland contingents to the war, primarily the draft contingents. Most concern medical, pay and discharge matters for individual soldiers.

**Cox W and Rossiter W L – enquiry by Charters Towers Patriotic Fund re  
payment to them, 1900      MP744/3, 1900/8094**

**Richards T – medical report and application for assistance from Queensland  
Patriotic Fund, 1901      MP744/3, 1901/9644**

**REGISTERED PAPERS OF THE STAFF OFFICER FOR MOUNTED INFANTRY, QUEENSLAND  
DEFENCE FORCE, 1901****MP744/7****Recorded by:****Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)****Melbourne      0.06 metres**

Four of these eight files are diaries forwarded by Queensland's fifth draft contingent; the rest concern individuals and a skirmish at Koster River.

**Report on circumstances of presentation of medal to Private Kennedy, 1901  
MP744/7, I/340**

**Sharp C O and Knudsen P – pay claim and statement; medical report; directive regarding their pay claims requested from the Chief Secretary by the Commandant Queensland Defence Force, 1901 MP744/7, I/963**

Includes a long and articulate letter from Knudsen claiming he was forced to join a locally raised irregular unit, the British South African Police.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899–1907 MP744/11**

**Recorded by:**

**Queensland Chief Secretary's Office (CA 4422)**

**Melbourne 1.80 metres**

This correspondence relates to arrangements for the Queensland contingents to serve in South Africa. Most of these 500 files concern medical and insurance matters and procedures for raising, despatching, returning and repatriating members of Queensland's third and fourth bushmen contingents.

**Marr R S – advice of death in South Africa, 1901 MP744/11, 1901/10435**

**List of applications for war gratuity by members of Irregular Corps, 1902 MP744/11, 1902/8202**

Names six gratuity applicants who served in units raised in South Africa – the Imperial Light Horse, the Johannesburg Mounted Rifles, and Damant's Horse.

**Perrett A – application for gratuity, 1903 MP744/11, 1903/1428**

**McCabe W – invalided on grounds of insanity – medical record – application of gratuity – payment of allowance, 1903 MP744/11, 1903/6671**

An unusually large file documenting the plight of an impoverished returned soldier whose head wound made him 'apt to lose his temper, on little or no provocation' and required treatment he could not afford and would not always accept.

**Recovery of King's SA medals from two individuals of the Queensland Imperial Bushmen Contingents – Lieutenants K J Halse and G W T Waterson, 1903–06 MP744/11, 1906/3684**

## Western Australia

**ALPHABETICAL ROLL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1900–03 B5165**

**Recorded by:**

**Western Australian Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1256)**

**Melbourne 0.01 metres**

A 12-page annotated list giving regimental number, name, rank, casualties and previous military service of men who had served with the first four contingents. Microfilm copies of this series are available in all Archives offices.

**Alphabetical roll of Western Australian Contingents to South Africa (Boer War), 1900–03 B5165, whole series**

## South Australia

### **BOER WAR VETERANS' FUNERAL BENEFIT FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BW (BOER WAR) PREFIX D4549**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–60: Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, South Australia (CA 877)**

**Adelaide 0.36 metres**

This series consists of correspondence concerning claims made for the supplementation of funeral benefits for deceased men who fought in the Boer War. Files can include letters from next of kin, invoices from undertakers, applications for grants towards funeral and burial expenses and claims for pensions.

**FLEETWOOD, Charles Rufus [Boer War veteran, funeral benefit] D4549, BW66**

This file includes embarkation and disembarkation details of the 5th South Australian Contingent as proof of Fleetwood's service in South Africa.

**LOVELOCK, Christopher Silas Rawson [Boer War veteran, funeral benefit] D4549, BW11**

## Commonwealth administration

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**

**A1**

**Recorded by:**

**1903–16: Department of External Affairs (CA 7)**

**Canberra 184.92 metres**

The Department of External Affairs was concerned with immigration and foreign relations. One early file in this vast series concerns the Bushveldt Carbineers case:

**King's Medal rolls for South African contingents, 1903 A1, 1903/314**

Telegram from the General Officer Commanding in Cape Town asking the Australian Government to publicise eligibility criteria for King's Medals.

### **SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911 A6443**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**

**1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Canberra 3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**Application for pension or compassionate allowance case. Trooper 491 James William Christie deceased, 1900–01      A6443, 78**

**No. 258 Trooper W E Gimbert 5th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse: Gratuity and Discharge certificate, 1907      A6443, 110**

**Claim for one year's pay by members of 5th Australian Commonwealth Horse, 1903      A6443, 120**

An optimistic claim that the Government owed these men a year's pay despite the war ending before they could serve more than a small fraction of the full term.

**Question of discharge being granted to members of contingents in South Africa, 1902      A6443, 665**

Includes Deakin's policy of discouraging Australian soldiers from settling in South Africa after the war.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936      A6661**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–28: Governor-General (CA 1)**

**Canberra      10.26 metres**

Around 200 items in this large series of correspondence between London and the Governor-General of Australia are relevant. Most are transcriptions of cables from the Secretary of State for Colonies in London and Kitchener in South Africa during the war's final stages, often concerning the return of Australians from South Africa.

**Sums due to estates of members of the Colonial Forces dying in South Africa, 1900–01      A6661, 536**

**Proposed appointment of Chief Justice of New South Wales to Royal Commission to inquire into South African War, 1902      A6661, 562**

An imperial government invitation, subsequently accepted, to Frederick Darley to serve on the royal commission appointed to examine why the British Empire nearly lost the war.

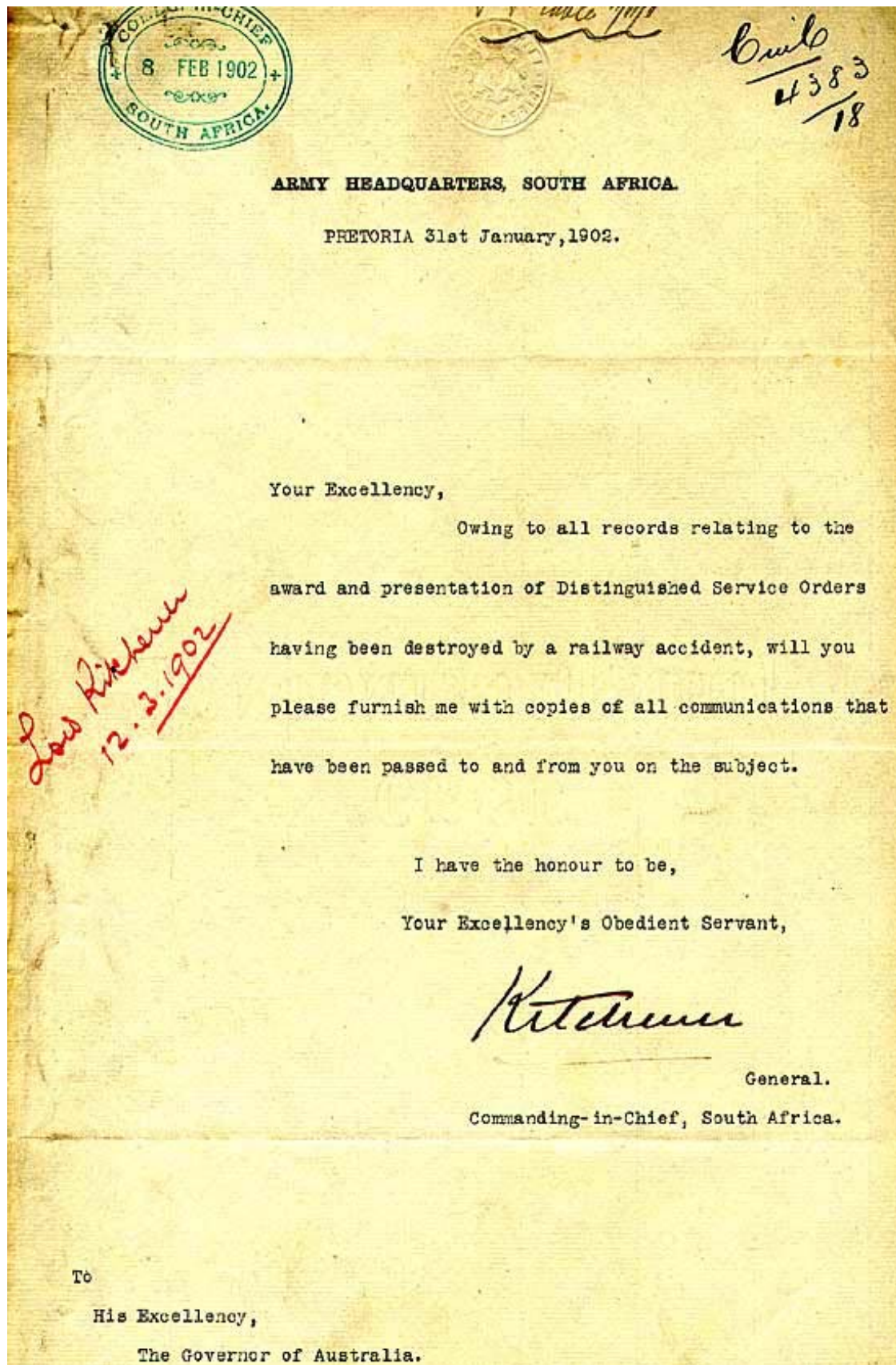
**Discharge of Australians – Governor-General's views sought, 1902      A6661, 690**

Kitchener asks: 'Many members of your Contingents wish for discharge in South Africa. Have you any objections?'

**Return of retention of arms of returning Colonial Contingents, 1902      A6661, 693**

The War Office in London advises that the weapons it supplied to Australian contingents should be sent to Britain.





Request from General Lord Kitchener for copies of correspondence concerning Distinguished Service Orders.

NAA: A6661, 548

**PRE-FEDERATION AND COMMONWEALTH RECORDS, 1850–1943****AWM1****Recorded by:**

**1850–1901: New South Wales Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1272)**  
**1859–83: Victorian Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**  
**1883–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–39: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**  
**1939–42: Australian Military Forces, Headquarters Eastern Command (CA 1876)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      34 metres**

An artificial series largely consisting of records relating to New South Wales military activities from the 1860s to 1914. Three primary subjects containing around 70 files are relevant. Files with the primary number 3 concern recruiting, training and administration of New South Wales and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents and largely consist of nominal rolls. Files with the primary number 4 concern those contingents on active service and includes many officers' reports. Files with the primary number 5 concern medals, pensions and gratuities.

**Index to register of distribution of medals, 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse, for service in South Africa, 1902–04      AWM1, 5/1**

**RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CENTRAL REGISTRY, 1900–38**  
**AWM3**

**Recorded by:**

**1900–01: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)**  
**1901–21: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**  
**1921–38: Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      3.55 metres**

An artificial series culled from early Commonwealth defence department records (B168), many relating to the raising, administration and records of the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

**A list of NCOs and men of the various Colonial Contingents who received their discharges locally, signed by Major A G Eckford, Oversea Colonials, 1902**  
**AWM3, 02/640**

Some soldiers chose to be discharged in South Africa.

**Disembarkation returns of Victorian troops who returned from active service in South Africa on HMT *St Andrew*, 25 April 1902      AWM3, 02/1030**

**'Disembarkation returns' of Victorian troops from South Africa on HMT *St Andrew* and *Custodian*. Also proceedings of Boards held on board *Custodian* regarding the quality of beer supplied to the troops, also on the loss of a bullock, 1902      AWM3, 02/1153**

**Correspondence regarding vouchers for South African medals and clasps for left and right wings of the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, 1902      AWM3, 02/2075**

A contentious issue, for the contingent's most significant brush with the enemy was its rout at Wilmansrust.

**Disembarkation return and nominal roll of troops ex SS *Aberdeen*, 28 August 1902      AWM3, 02/2692**



**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06****B168****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Arrangements for reception for the return of the China Contingent and South African soldiers and inspection of same by Governor-General, 1901**  
**B168, 1901/246**

Includes the recommendation that 'a light luncheon at the Barracks' not exceed four shillings a head.

**S. African War – re Elands River engagement – suggested clasp, 1900–01**  
**B168, 1901/5508**

Unsuccessful submission by Queensland, Victorian and South Australian Governments that the War Office approve a medal clasp for the siege at Elands River.

**Capt. C H Atkins South African War Medal, 1902      B168, 1902/7327**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1906–13****MP84/1****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      37.26 metres**

A tiny portion of the vast routine correspondence of the department, subsequent to that held in series B168, addressed administrative matters arising from the war, largely the award of medals.

**Clasps – South Africa 1901 for Everall and Browning 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, 1907–08      MP84/1, 419/4/5**

**King's South Africa medals erroneously claimed for Members of the AAMC, 1905–07      MP84/1, 1919/3/19**

## Repatriation records

### PERSONAL CASE FILES WITH 'BW' (BOER WAR) PREFIX, 1938–73

**A2799****Recorded by:****1938–47: Repatriation Commission (CA 225)****1947–74: Repatriation Department [I] (CA 16)****Canberra 0.3 metres**

Around 150 personal case files compiled to document applications for service pensions made by or on behalf of Australian veterans of the war. Few files contain material predating the late 1950s and medical documents are rare.

**Simpson, Oscar Julius, 1960 A2799, BW121**

Includes official advice that Simpson's service in the South African Constabulary, a non-Australian unit, did not qualify him for an Australian service pension.

### BOER WAR FUNERAL BENEFIT SUB-FILES WITH 'BW' PREFIX, 1938–85 B5517

**Recorded by:****1938–76: Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, Victoria (CA 879)****Melbourne 0.72 metres**

There are 159 surviving files of claims on the Victorian office of the Repatriation Department for funeral benefits by relatives of veterans. Several files include war documents kept by veterans and their families such as attestation papers, medical reports and discharge papers.

**Wood, James Edward, 1938–39 B5517, BW3**

As a member of a non-Australian unit, the Imperial Light Horse, Wood was ineligible for funeral benefits, a situation which prompted his son to protest that: 'We, mother and I, are paying the expenses to bury our forgotten soldiers'.

**Grimley, George Frederick, 1953 B5517, BW115**

This 1950s correspondence includes no service documents.

### BOER WAR VETERANS CASE FILES WITH 'BW' (BOER WAR) PREFIX, 1938–48 J1773

**Recorded by:****Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Brisbane (CA 876)****Brisbane 0.18 metres**

There are 44 surviving files of claims on the Queensland office of the Repatriation Commission for funeral benefits by relatives of Boer war veterans. As in series B5517, some files include, or at least mention, wartime documents such as discharge papers.

**Busby, William Norman J1773, BW2**

Busby's widow was denied payment because her husband's life insurance policy more than covered the cost of his funeral.

**Gartside, William J1773, BW4**

This gunsmith had served in Bethune's Mounted Infantry, a non-Australian unit, making his daughter ineligible for a funeral benefit from the Repatriation Commission.

**BOER WAR VETERANS' FUNERAL BENEFIT FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BW (BOER WAR) PREFIX, 1939–60 D4549**

Recorded by:

**1939-60: Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, South Australia (CA 877)**

**Adelaide 0.6 metres**

This series consists of correspondence concerning claims made for the supplementation of funeral benefits for deceased men who fought in the Boer War. Files can include letters from next of kin, invoices from undertakers, applications for grants towards funeral and burial expenses and claims for pensions.

**FLEETWOOD, Charles Rufus [Boer War veteran, funeral benefit] D4549, BW66**

This file includes embarkation and disembarkation details of the 5<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen as proof of Fleetwood's service in South Africa.

**LOVELOCK, Christopher Silas Rawson [Boer War veteran, funeral benefit] D4549, BW11**

## Forgetting and remembering

The first Australian soldiers to return from the war were hailed as heroes, and memorials to them and their successors were erected in many towns and suburbs. An official history of the Australian contingents was mooted, though this was soon scaled down to the useful but unimaginative volume *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents*, compiled in 1911 by P L Murray. The memory of the contingents was soon overshadowed by the deeds of the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War, and the Boer War came to be seen as no more than a rehearsal for the main event. Australia's Boer War dead had their names inscribed on the honour rolls of the Australian War Memorial, an institution devised to commemorate Australia's sacrifice in the First World War. Many official records of Australia's part in the Boer War were lost or destroyed while those relating to the First World War were collected and stored with reverence. The recent growth of interest in family history has helped revive interest in Australia's part in the Boer War.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38 A1**

Recorded by:

**1903–16: Department of External Affairs (CA 7)**

**Canberra 184.92 metres**

The Department of External Affairs was concerned with immigration and foreign relations.

**Capetown Cathedral Memorial Fund, 1901–03 A1, 1903/594**

It would save time if inquiries concerning  
the health of patients were addressed  
direct to the Asylum.

No. 13367

Master-in-Lunacy's Office,  
LAW COURTS,  
Melbourne, 15 August 1902

No. 02/29 RECEIVED 16 AUG 1902 COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE

MEMO. in re Charles Wm Krayer  
Kew. 25.7.02

This patient was removed from  
the troopship 'Manchester Merchant'  
to Kew Asylum on the 25 July 02.  
Will you kindly inform me if any  
arrear of pay are due to him, &  
also if it is known whether he  
had any money or effects when  
taken off the ship. Dr. Embury  
I understand instructed the Police  
in the matter. I should also be  
glad to receive any information  
concerning his relatives friends etc.

The Secretary  
for Defence  
etc. etc.

THOS. PROUT WERR  
Master in Lunacy.

For some, surviving the war did not mean a return to normal society.

NAA: A6443, 210

**SUBJECT BUNDLES OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE  
AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN (BOER) WAR, 1899–1911  
A6443**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1901: Victorian Department of Defence (CA 1340)  
1901–11: Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)**

**Canberra 3.54 metres**

Nearly 700 subject bundles on the war, mostly thin, separated from the late Victorian (B3756) and early Commonwealth (B168) defence departments' general correspondence. Most concern the raising and administration of early Victorian draft contingents and Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents, the appointment of officers, the return of invalid soldiers from the war, pay, gratuities, compensation and medals to be awarded. There are some officers' reports from the front.

**1st Tasmanian Contingent: Strength 80 under Captain Cyril St Clair Cameron,  
1900 A6443, 87**

This brief account of the service of Tasmania's first contingent may have been compiled for Murray's history.

**Record of war service for the official Army list Commonwealth Military Forces  
New South Wales: First Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse, 1902  
A6443, 96**

Names and regimental numbers of members of several New South Wales contingents.

**ROLL OF HONOUR CARDS – WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1899–1902**

**AWM142**

**Recorded by:**

**Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 0.02 metres**

These cards give name, rank, regimental number, unit and date and place of death. Microfiche copies must be used unless access to original records is specially granted.

**Roll of honour cards – War in South Africa, 1899–1902 AWM142, whole  
series**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–06**

**B168**

**Recorded by:**

**Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Melbourne 9 metres**

A number of files from the early Victorian Department of Defence were transferred to this series when the department ceased to operate and its officers transferred to the Commonwealth in July 1901. Perhaps 100 files from this series, which documents the establishment and early civil administration of the Commonwealth Military Forces, concern the war. Most deal with the return of contingents, casualties, medal entitlements, and the resumption of normal military duties by officers and men who continued with peacetime citizen soldiering.

**Report on 1st and 2nd South Australian Contingents, 1899–1901 B168,  
1901/5306**

Includes the hope by South Australia's commandant 'that other States may be instructed to prepare similar reports for each Contingent and so ensure an Official and true record of the work of Australia's first Soldiers who fought for the Empire'.

**Offers of service and proposals re History of Australia's involvement in The Boer War, 1902–04 B168, 1902/2399**

Private offers to write an Australian official history of the war and General Officer Commanding Hutton's support for a history that would 'have a great effect in moulding National character'.

**Erection of memorial (St Kilda) to soldiers who have fallen in South African War, 1902 B168, 1902/3507**

An inquiry from: 'A movement... initiated by His Worship the Mayor having for its object the erection of a befitting and lasting memorial, with a scroll of names thereon, of the soldiers who have fallen in the South African war, and who at the time of enlistment were residents of, or hailed from, St. Kilda, or whose home or address was given as such'.

**Units permitted to bear upon their colours or appointments 'Sth Africa', 1905 B168, 1905/3919**

Lists of personal names and length of service confirming that nearly all units in the Commonwealth Military Forces are entitled to carry a 'South Africa' battle honour on their flags.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND DISPOSAL LISTS OF THE 'CORRESPONDENCE AND DESTRUCTION COMMITTEE', DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, 1924–27 B1197**

**Recorded by:**

**Department of Defence [II] (CA 19)**

**Melbourne 0.07 metres**

This series documents the wholesale culling performed during the 1920s of files raised before 1914 by the Victorian and Commonwealth defence departments, many of which documented Australia's contribution to the Boer War. Most files were destroyed, including 1900/1531, concerning tickets for relatives visiting Langwarrin camp where Victorian contingents trained; 1900/5857, concerning invalided men returning from South Africa; and 1901/5379, concerning the dispatch of further troops to South Africa. Files which survived are now part of series B3756 and B168 (see Chapter 1 for series description).

**Correspondence and disposal lists of the 'Correspondence and Destruction Committee' – Department of Defence, 1924–27 B1197, whole series**

**BOOK: RECORDS OF AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENTS TO THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1899–1902 MP69/9**

**Recorded by:**

**Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Military District [I], Commonwealth Military Forces, Keswick [South Australia] (CA 3208)**

**Melbourne 0.36 metres**

A copy of Murray's *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents* distributed to district headquarters after publication.

**Records of Australian Contingents to South Africa, 1899–1902 MP69/9, NN**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1906–13****MP84/1****Recorded by:****Department of Defence [I] (CA 6)****Melbourne      37.26 metres**

A tiny portion of the vast routine correspondence of the department, subsequent to that held in series B168, addressed administrative matters arising from the war, largely the award of medals.

**Honorarium to Major Pearce re History Aust Contingents sent to South Africa, 1902–07      MP84/1, 1954/1/5**

Records a debate over whether to fund any official effort to record the raising and the experience of contingents from New South Wales. The file includes a plan for a full-scale Australian official history of the war.

***Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*, Lt. Col. P L Murray: Compilation and Printing, 1906–12      MP84/1, 2025/2/142**

This documents how Murray compiled his history and to whom copies were distributed.



*B. Squadron*  
5th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse for Service  
in South Africa.

**ATTESTATION** of No. *179* Name *Benjamin Hamilton*  
Joined at Sydney, New South Wales.  
*Duplicate* On *23rd* *H.* 1902.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. What is your name?	1. <i>Benjamin Hamilton</i>
2. What is your place of birth?	2. <i>Mudge</i>
3. Are you a British subject?	3. <i>yes</i>
4. What is your age?	4. <i>21</i> years <i>6</i> months.
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <i>Farrier</i>
6. Are you married?	6. <i>No</i>
7. Who is your next-of-kin, and what is the address of same, and degree of relationship?	7. <i>Father Benjamin Hamilton</i>
8. Particulars of any previous service in present South African war, and state in what Contingent enrolled, and if discharged?	8. <i>Friendly Societies Grounds Sydney</i>
9. Are you willing to serve for a period of 12 months, or for the duration of war, in the Contingent for service in South Africa with His Majesty's forces?	9. <i>yes</i>
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, if deemed advisable?	10. <i>yes</i>
11. Present permanent address?	11. <i>Friendly Societies Grounds, Moore Park, Sydney</i>
12. Religion?	12. <i>R. C.</i>

I, *Benjamin Hamilton* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made for service under the Imperial Government, and that I have no claim on the Commonwealth Government, and that I do not expect to receive for myself, or any of my relations, any compensation whatsoever from the Commonwealth Government in case of my disablement or death.

*B. Hamilton* Signature. *L. Challen*  
Date *23rd* *H.* 1902. Signature of Witness.

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.**

I have examined the above-named applicant and ~~cannot~~ *can* certify that he is medically fit for service in South Africa.

Height *5* feet *8 1/2* inches. Eyes *Hazel*  
Chest measurement *34 = 36 1/2* inches. Hair *Dark*  
Complexion *Fair* Distinctive marks *Scar inside left arm*

*Muller*  
Signature of Medical Officer.

\* One to be struck out and initialled by Medical Officer.

**OATH TO BE TAKEN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, *Benjamin Hamilton* do make oath that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, His heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty his heirs and successors in person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

*B. Hamilton* So help me, God. Signature. *Lou D. Dyre*  
Signature of Witness.

Seen before me *J. Cowie* Justice of the Peace.  
Date *APRIL 30* 1902

Part of the service dossier of Benjamin Hamilton.  
NAA: B4418, HAMILTON B



# Appendixes

## Appendix 1 A note for family historians

Family historians who are interested in learning more about a soldier or nurse in one of the Australian contingents to the war should first consult P L Murray's *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa* (Government Printer, Melbourne, 1911), which gives a brief history of each contingent's service and lists all its members, their regimental numbers, and whether they were decorated, wounded, invalided home sick, killed or died of disease. Murray's book is too sparsely indexed to be of immediate use if you do not know the contingent in which a person served, but one or more indexes have been compiled, including R McLachlan, *Index to Australian Contingents to South Africa* (privately published, 1984).

The Australian War Memorial has developed an electronic version of McLachlan's index which allows an electronic search of names of all service personnel who are listed in Murray's *Official Records*. This database allows researchers to identify the contingent in which the service person served and therefore makes identifying those series of records which may contain further details of the service person a much simpler task. This database is available as the 'Boer War Nominal Roll' through the Australian War Memorial's website.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has also funded the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) to develop a database of burial and memorial sites of Australian soldiers who died in South Africa during the Boer War. This database is available through the HAGSOC website.



Alexander Krygger of the 1<sup>st</sup> West Australian Contingent, 9 September 1900.  
NAA: A1721, 21

The next step is to learn what you can from other published sources. Government gazettes are useful for finding out when officers were appointed, when a contingent was formed, how much it was paid, and who was contracted to ship it to South Africa. Annual officers' lists, typically called *Army and Navy lists*, will tell you about an officer's military background. Local newspapers reported in great detail the raising and recruiting of contingents, and contained interviews with officers and men.

You are now ready to tackle the official records discussed in this guide. The first series to consult is B4418, Boer War dossiers (see Chapter 3). It contains around 5 000 dossiers, largely comprising attestation papers giving name, place of birth, nationality, age, occupation, marital status, next of kin, address, religion, previous military service in South Africa, and occasionally medical fitness. Other papers found on some dossiers include medical reports and recent correspondence with family members, the Central Army Records Office and its successor, the Soldier Career Management Agency. Most soldiers for whom dossiers exist enlisted at the end of the war, but even so many of them had served earlier in the war as well. The National Archives can photocopy and post a dossier to family members and interested researchers.

For more detailed searching, nominal rolls and pay documents list names, regimental numbers and – depending on their purpose – dates of birth, addresses, occupations, physical descriptions, next of kin, pay rates and other biographical data. Most of these records are discussed in Chapter 3 on raising and maintaining the contingents and in Chapter 6 on the war's aftermath. Personal case files on pay, insurance, compensation, repatriation and eligibility for medals are plentiful though scattered. This guide indicates which series contain these and how fruitful they might prove.

Do not ignore the documents housed in state archives and the private records held by the Australian War Memorial. Though these vast sources require much time for sifting, they are both valuable and little used. There are also many books written about the war by soldiers and journalists. If you read one written by someone who served in or who was attached to the same unit as the person whose history you are reconstructing, you can learn much about the front-line experiences of that person. Two examples of such histories are:

J H M Abbott, *Tommy Cornstalk*, Longmans, London, 1902 (for the Australian Horse, part of the second New South Wales contingent); and

W T Reay, *Australians in War: With the Australian Regiment from Melbourne to Bloemfontein*, Massina, Melbourne, 1901 (for part of the first Victorian contingent).

There are several published guides to tracing the careers of Australian soldiers in the Boer War and other wars, including:

National Archives of Australia, *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, compiled by Margaret Chambers,

National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1998;

Joyce Bradley and others, *Roll Call! A Guide to Genealogical Sources in the Australian War Memorial*, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1986;

R H Montague, *How to Trace your Military Ancestors in Australia and New Zealand*, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1989; and

Allan Box, *A Soldier in the Family: A Source Book for Australian Military Genealogy: The First Fleet to the Gulf War*, Leongatha, Traralgon Vic., 1993.

## Appendix 2 Relevant collections in other archives and libraries

### The Australian War Memorial, Canberra

The Memorial holds a large collection of letters, diaries, memoirs and photographs by soldiers of nearly all Australian contingents to the war, and by some Australian members of other units (notably the 2nd Scottish Horse, partly raised in Victoria). Prominent officers are well represented: John Antill, John Hoad and the controversial Percy Ricardo of the first contingents; veterinary officer Ernest Kendall; chaplain Frederick Wray; regular officers Harry Chauvel and Brudenell White; Breaker Morant (mostly poetry) and his offsider Peter Handcock (one letter) of the Bushveldt Carbineers; and Granville Ryrie and Kenneth Mackay of the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen. Among the most detailed and evocative collections left by unremembered soldiers and junior officers are Harold Harnett's diaries, Robert Hodgson's memoir, and A C Murray's photograph album.

Most of the official government records held by the War Memorial are listed on the Archives database *RecordSearch*. However, the Memorial also holds a large collection of official records generated by Tasmania's draft contingent which, having been presented by private donation, are not catalogued on *RecordSearch* and thus are not described in this guide. Some of the unspectacular art inspired by the war can be seen at the Memorial, including Charles Hammond's crude and celebratory painting *Australians and New Zealanders at Klerksdorp*. More evocative is the collection of battlefield relics, from a surgical kit to a heliograph, much of which is on display in the South African War gallery, and the vast holdings of photographs from the war, many of which are vivid and frank.

### The National Library of Australia, Canberra

The National Library holds around 20 sets of personal papers kept by soldiers and officers. Perhaps the most interesting are those of Charles Cox, commanding officer of the first Australian unit to reach South Africa; Martin Maddern, YMCA representative with Queensland's fourth contingent; and Edward Hutton, Australia's controversial first General Officer Commanding and commander in South Africa of many Australian soldiers.

### The Australian Defence Force Academy Library, Canberra

The Australian Defence Force Academy Library holds microfilm copies of the British Library's massive collection of Edward Hutton's private papers.

### State Archives and Libraries

Most of the surviving official Australian records relating to the war are held in State archives around the country. Nearly all are hidden away in the uncatalogued correspondence of premiers, colonial secretaries and treasurers, and must be found either by calling up bundles in chronological order or by the even more time-

consuming method of tracing correspondence recorded in register books. The Queensland and Western Australian State archives hold some records on their contingents and patriotic funds which have been organised as discrete collections and described in brief guides.

The State libraries are, after the Australian War Memorial, the best source of soldiers' private papers, and the best source of records suggesting the war's impact at home. The La Trobe Library in Melbourne, for example, holds Frederick Purcell's letters from the front to his fiancée, an invitation to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking at the Melbourne Club (T N Fitzgerald papers), printed souvenirs of the departure of early Victorian contingents (Hamilton family papers), Reverend Charles Strong's view of why the Uitlander cause was flawed (Strong papers), published nominal rolls of all Victorian contingents, and minutes of the Victorian Trades Hall Council which evoke organised labour's divided opinion on the war.

## Beyond Australia

The Public Record Office in London holds four relevant groups of records: Cabinet, Colonial Office, private, and War Office records. Cabinet records mention high policy, as do Colonial Office records – many of which are available in Australian state libraries and the National Library through the Australian Joint Copying Project. The private records of Kitchener and Roberts contain frequent comment on the organisation and employment of mounted troops from around the empire and highlight the military role which Australian contingents were summoned to perform in the war. War Office records contain senior military decisions and views on Australia's contribution to the war, a valuable corrective given that Australian historians have so far only used Colonial Office material; records of the awards of battle honours to Australian military units after the war ended, revealing desperate attempts by Australians to concoct a military heritage for their newly-created Commonwealth Military Forces; rolls of all war veterans entitled to medals; monthly reports by commanders of British army formations to which Australian units were attached; and special reports on problems and crises, some of which involved Australians.

Other repositories of military records in Britain – the National Army Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the British Library, the Liddell Hart Centre at King's College London, the Scottish Record Office and others – hold few relevant records, though some private papers such as those of General John French, Roberts' cavalry commander, and Frederick Maurice, Britain's official historian of the war, are useful.

Although the records held by South African archives and libraries have not been surveyed to any great extent, the available guides and bibliographies suggest that much of the official military records relating to the Boer War concern procedural matters, as opposed to policy. This ranges from routine administrative documents such as court martial records to private collections relating to those South African-based units in which many Australians served, such as the Imperial Light Horse.

### Appendix 3 Boer War jargon, acronyms and abbreviations

AAMC	Australian Army Medical Corps
ACH	Australian Commonwealth Horse, designation for the units of the sixth wave of Australian contingents
Afrikaans	language used by descendants of Dutch South Africans
AMC	Army Medical Corps
AMS	Army Medical Service, the same as Army Medical Corps
berg	mountain
Boer	literally a farmer; descendant of Dutch South Africans living in the Transvaal or Orange Free State
burgher	white male citizen of the Transvaal or Orange Free State
bushmen	designation for third, fourth and sometimes fifth waves of Australian contingents
bushveldt	bush country in the middle Transvaal
CB	Companion of the Order of the Bath, a title awarded for distinguished service
CBC	Citizen's Bushmen Contingent, one of the third wave of Australian contingents
CIV	City Imperial Volunteers, designation for British infantry contingents to the war
clasp	attachment to medal ribbon proclaiming the wearer to have participated in a campaign, battle or skirmish
CMF	Commonwealth Military Forces
commandant	commanding officer of a Boer commando; commanding officer of the military forces of an Australian colony
commando	Boer military unit, usually of a particular district
contingent	military unit or units raised and despatched at one time
donga	cutting made in the ground by flowing water
dorp	village
drift	river ford
DSO	Distinguished Service Order, decoration for bravery
fontein	spring

GOC	General Officer Commanding
gratuity	extra payment to soldiers returning from the war
HMT	Her/His Majesty's Transport
HQ	Headquarters
IBC	Imperial Bushmen Contingent, one of the fourth wave of Australian contingents
inspan	to harness transport animals in readiness to march
IY	Imperial Yeomanry, designation for British mounted contingents to the war
kaffir	Boer word for South African blacks
kloof	ravine
kop	hill
koppie, kopje	small hill
kraal	cattle enclosure; group of huts; village
laager	camp, sometimes formed by circle of ox-wagons
laagte	valley
MI	Mounted Infirmary
MISA	Mounted Infantry South Africa
mounted infantry, mounted rifles	infantry using horses for mobility between battlefields; cavalry fighting with rifles rather than swords
NCO	Non-commissioned officer; a corporal or sergeant
nek	pass between two hills
NSWMR	New South Wales Mounted Rifles
outspan, uitspan	to unharness transport animals and halt a march
patriotic fund	non-government charity collecting and dispensing money for wounded soldiers and dependants of dead soldiers
poort	gateway; gap between hills
QIB	Queensland Imperial Bushmen
QMI	Queensland Mounted Infantry
Rand	The Witwatersrand in the Transvaal, more particularly its rich gold mines

return	list
RFF	Rhodesian Field Force
SAMR	South Australian Mounted Rifles
SAW	South African War
Special Service	designation of Australian officers despatched to the war not in command of contingents but to act as staff officers and learn staff and command techniques
TIB	Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen
trek	Boer word for journey, used to describe military patrols during the Boer War
TSS	Turbine Steamship
Uitlander	outsider, foreigner
veld, veldt	bush country covered in undergrowth and trees
VC	Victoria Cross, highest decoration for bravery
VMF	Victorian Military Forces
VMR	Victorian Mounted Rifles
Zarp	member of the Transvaal's semi-military police force (Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek Politie)



## Appendix 4 Suggestions for further research

Much of Australia's Boer War history is unknown, and will become better understood when researchers begin to exploit relevant material in the National Archives of Australia. There is much work to be done, with many questions suitable for tackling in an honours thesis or journal article.

Some characteristics of the members of Victorian contingents to the war are known through Max Chamberlain's work entitled 'The characteristics of Australia's Boer War volunteers' (*Historical Studies*, vol. 20, no. 78, April 1982, pp. 48–52). Other important characteristics, such as prior military service, are unknown, while other contingents remain unstudied. Nor has there been a comparison made with non-Australian troops. We do not even know how many Australians fought in the war. The accepted number is, in fact, merely a tally of enlistments into contingents leaving Australia. Many soldiers enlisted twice, and many more joined non-Australian units in South Africa. A careful statistical study of the muster rolls held by the National Archives should fill these gaps, and can be checked against Chamberlain's work and Murray's *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*.

We know surprisingly little about the experience of Australians at the front, where actions, some of which have been studied, were few. The typical experience consisted of a cramped voyage to a South African port, a cramped rail journey into the interior, a difficult adjustment to unfamiliar officers and discipline, endless patrols on horseback, a few weeks in hospital with a gastric illness, more patrols, and another long, cramped, rail and sea journey back to Australia or enlistment into a local unit being raised in Cape Town or Pretoria. Soldiers' letters, of which the Australian War Memorial has many, and officers' reports, of which the National Archives has some, could be studied and a full evocation made of Australians at the front. What they made of their imperial colleagues, their enemies, and their black labourers would be interesting to know. All this should, ideally, be checked against the experience of at least one non-Australian unit in the war so that institutional (Australians were citizen soldiers, and much that seemed odd about the 'Tommies' derived from the latter being regular soldiers) or even simply human characteristics are not mistaken for nascent national ones.

The home front, apart from dissent against the war, has been lost to sight. A fine study could be made of the more numerous supporters, the ordinary men and women who helped raise contingents, farewelled them, filled the coffers of the patriotic funds, read the war news, celebrated when Mafeking was relieved, and welcomed home their local boys. Also forgotten are the businesses which clamoured for, and won, war contracts. An economic historian might want to investigate whether war contracts helped pull some businesses fully out of the 1890s depression, and whether the export of 5 000 or more rural men eased the unemployment which accompanied Australia's worst drought. The National Archives and the State archives have much correspondence on war contracts, while local newspapers are the best source for the war's impact on ordinary Australians.

The initial commitment to war made by Australian colonial governments from July to October 1899 is well known. What of the subsequent commitments made in late 1899, early 1901 and early 1902? Regrettably there is little useful material in the National Archives, though the State archives may hold material and the press at least gives an insight into the popular mood which at times forced the politicians' hands.

The personal aftermath of war, again little known, might be understood through the pension and medical records held by the National Archives, the Australian War Memorial and the state archives, notably the Queensland State Archives. Correspondence on the erection of war memorials is also common and, as Ken Inglis has shown in his recent book *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* (Miegunyah Press at Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1998), reveals community aesthetics and martial attitudes.

## Appendix 5 Further reading

There have been two phases of writing on Australians and the Boer War. The first, which ran its course by 1912, saw a spate of memoirs of active service, some personal apologies, at least one account of an Australian suburb's contribution to the war, and an 'official record' of the service of Australian contingents. P L Murray's *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa* (Government Printer, Melbourne, 1911) was unique in its use of official military sources, notably nominal rolls and officers' reports. The result was not an Australian official history despite earlier plans that one be written, but a 600-page condensation of readily available official sources. The value of the book today is in what it has preserved, especially where the original documents which Murray used have been lost or destroyed. The book's limitations, though, are severe. The nominal rolls give no more than name, rank and whether killed, wounded, died, injured or fallen sick. The extracts from officers' reports almost never include passages referring to routine patrol work, health, discipline or morale. Nothing useful is offered about British units and forces with which Australian units served, and there are no notes indicating the source of any material used in the book.

The second phase of writing on the subject, which included academic and non-academic strands, began in the 1960s. The academic strand at first was largely interested in whether Australians had been manipulated into war by the imperial government. This question informed the first chapters of L M Field's *The Forgotten War: Australian Involvement in the South African Conflict of 1899–1902* (Melbourne University Press, 1979), which sought to treat events and attitudes in Australia during the war as well as the experience of active service. Field's book was the first, and to date the only, book-length academic synthesis of the subject. Field displayed great interest in the commitment and service of the first four waves of contingents, but regrettably squeezed the story of the other two waves into just one chapter. The non-academic strand had been most famously concerned with Breaker Morant, the subject of several books from F M Cutlack's *Breaker Morant* (Ure Smith, Sydney, 1962) to Kit Denton's *Closed File* (Rigby, Adelaide, 1983). The most productive non-academic writer on Australia and the war, R L Wallace, has published two books: *The Australians at the Boer War* (Australian War Memorial and Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1976), based largely on soldiers' letters, and *The Circumstances Surrounding the Siege of Elands River Post* (privately published, Sydney, 1992). Wallace consulted private records in South Africa for the first book and some War Office records in London for the case study, and has treated the experience of Australians in non-Australian units as well as those in the better-known Australian ones. In these respects he has shown more imagination and initiative than academic writers.

Below is a list of further useful writing:

- Abbott, J H M, *Tommy Cornstalk*, Longmans, London, 1902
- Austin, R, *The Australian Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Zulu and Boer Wars*, Slouch Hat, Rosebud, Victoria, 1999
- Bassett, J, 'Turning point: Australian nurses and the South African War', *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*, no. 13, October 1988, pp. 3–8
- Burness, P, 'The Australian Horse: A cavalry squadron in the South African War', *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*, no. 6, April 1985, pp. 37–45
- Calder, W B, *Heroes and Gentlemen: Colonel Tom Price and the Victorian Mounted Rifles*, Jimaringle, Melbourne, 1985
- Carnegie, M, *In Search of Breaker Morant*, Shields, Armidale, 1979
- Chamberlain, M, 'The characteristics of Australia's Boer War volunteers', *Historical Studies*, vol. 20, no. 78, April 1982, pp. 48–52
- Chamberlain, M, 'The Wilmansrust Affair: A defence of the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles', *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*, no. 6, April 1985, pp. 47–55
- Chamberlain, M, *The Australians in the South African War 1899–1902: A Map History*, Australian Army History Unit, Canberra, 1999
- Connolly, C N, 'Manufacturing "spontaneity": The Australian offers of troops for the Boer War', *Historical Studies*, vol. 18, no. 70, April 1978, pp. 106–17
- Connolly, C N, 'Class, birthplace, loyalty: Australian attitudes to the Boer War', *Historical Studies*, vol. 18, no. 71, October 1978, pp. 210–32
- Coulthard-Clark, C D, *No Australian Need Apply: The Troubled Career of Lieutenant-General Gordon Legge*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1988
- Davey, A, *Breaker Morant and the Bushveldt Carbineers*, Van Riebeeck Society, Cape Town, 1987
- Dennis, P and Grey, J, *The Boer War, Army, Nation and Empire: The 1999 Chief of Army/Australian War Memorial Military History Conference*, Australian Army History Unit, Canberra 1999
- Green, J, *The Story of the Australian Bushmen*, Brooks, Sydney, 1903
- Hill, A J, *Chauvel of the Light Horse: A Biography of General Sir Harry Chauvel GCMG KCB*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton Vic., 1978
- Pakenham, T, *The Boer War*, Wiedenfeld & Nicholson, London, 1979
- Lee, E, *To the Bitter End: A Photographic History of the Boer War 1899–1902*, Viking, Harmondsworth UK, 1985
- Lloyd, C & Rees, J, *The Last Shilling: A History of Repatriation in Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton Vic., 1994
- McLachlan, R, *Index to Australian Contingents to South Africa*, privately published, 1984
- Nasson, B, *The South African War 1899–1902*, Arnold, London 1999
- Reay, W T, *Australians in War: With the Australian Regiment from Melbourne to Bloemfontein*, Massina, Melbourne, 1901

- Souter, G, *Lion and Kangaroo: Australia 1901–1919, the Rise of a Nation*, Collins, Sydney, 1976
- Stirling, J, *The Colonials in South Africa 1899–1902*, Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1903
- Wilkinson, F, *Australia at the Front*, Long, London, 1901
- Wilkinson, F, *Australian Cavalry: The NSW Lancer Regiment and the First Australian Horse*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1901

## Appendix 6 Guides to the collection

The National Archives of Australia creates and maintains guides to records in its collection to help researchers identify and locate records relevant to their research. These guides are available on the [National Archives' website](#).

## Appendix 7 Addresses and hours of opening

For contact details of the National Archives of Australia, see the National Archives of Australia [contact us page](#).



## Appendix 8    Addresses of other archival institutions

For contact details of other archival institutions, see the [National Archives' website](#).